Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the quality of life in the CNMI right now?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE



Big Sur
Firefighters pushed back a blaze threatening Big Sur, just enough to allow people to check on their homes.

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Climate Pact
G-8 leaders pledge to back a UN effort to conclude new climate pact by 2009.

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Romance Ends
Justin Long and Drew Barrymore end their romance.

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Fraud suits target Aranza, Ada

IN BRIEF

- Aranza allegedly duped NMI in security plan contract, at a cost of $130K-plus
- Ada allegedly illegally cashed out converted sick leave for $59K

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Two lawsuits brought by the CNMI Attorney General's Office Wednesday accuse a former government contractor and the current Board of Educa-

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Aranza



Ada



LUGGAGE HUNT JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A passenger look for his luggage upon arrival at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early Wednesday morning last week.

CUC acts on leaking pipe

Man'amko couple won't be charged $1,883 for water

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sent its crew yesterday to check the leaking water pipe on Publiku Street on Lower Navy Hill that was the subject of complaints by three senior citizens.

CUC also stated that the elderly couple who received a billing in the amount of $1,883 for one month water supply will not be assessed that amount.

Teodoro Guiao, 65, Ernesto M. Castillano, 85, and Lilia Castillano, 60, all residents of Publiku Street, on Tuesday said that CUC had failed for

See CUC on Page 4



First responders from different government agencies converge in Chalan Piao to help put out the fire at the MGM garment factory.
FERDIE DELA TORRE

Fire razes MGM garment factory

Over 200 workers evacuated to UIC Garment barracks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A fire of still unknown cause—the second within the week—razed the MGM garment factory in Chalan Piao yesterday morning, resulting in the evacuation of over 200 workers.

No one was reported hurt as the factory was closed when the blaze broke out at 4:52am. Firefighters managed to

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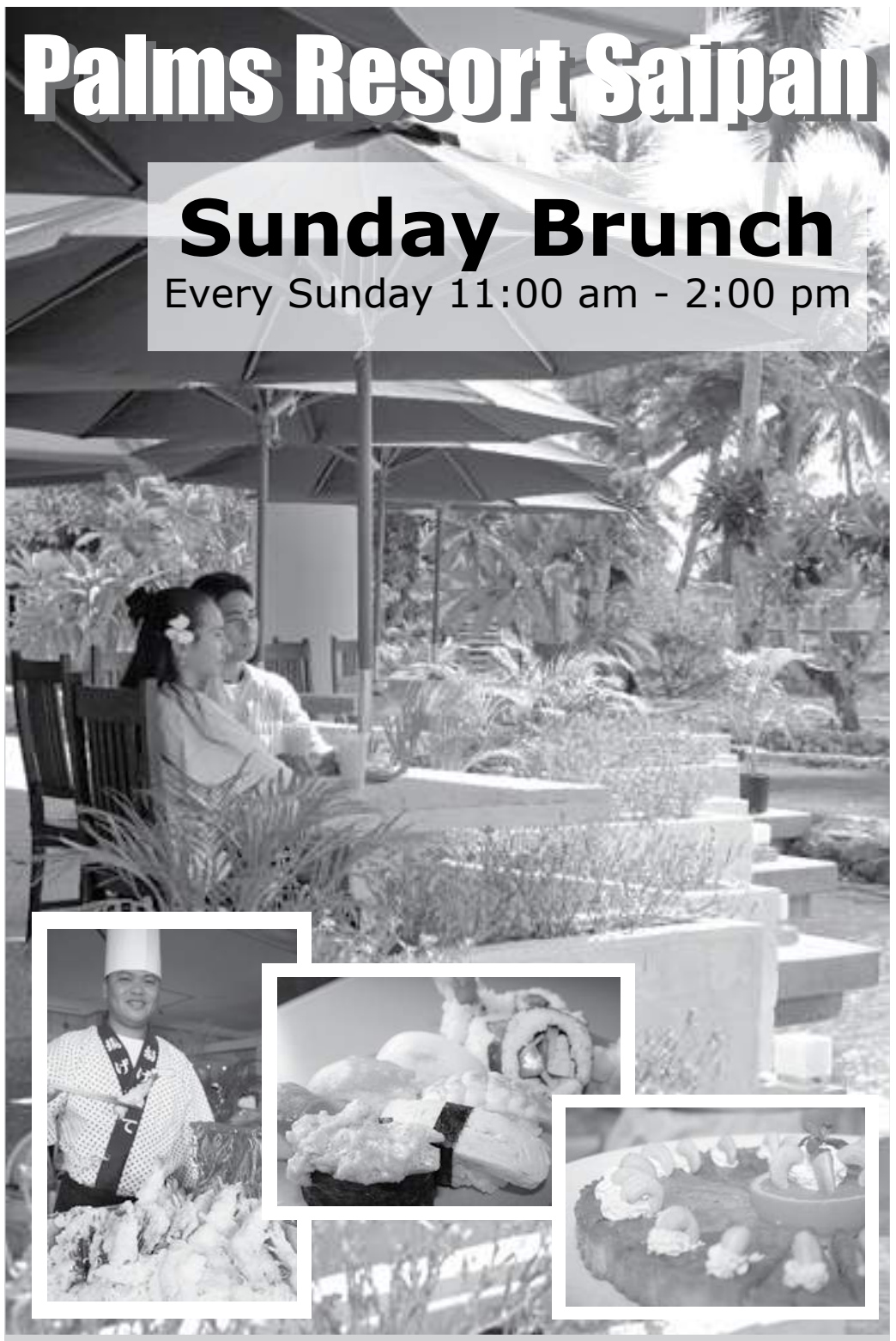


Local



'ISLAND WARRIORS' JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Island Warriors perform a traditional Carolinian dance in celebration of the 62nd Liberation Day at the Garapan Fishing Base festival grounds.



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Lawmakers mixed on federalization lawsuit

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers are split on the governor's plan to sue the U.S. government over the immigration "federalization" law.

Members of the House of Representatives failed to reach an agreement yesterday on whether to adopt a resolution backing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on his efforts to stop the federal government from taking control of local immigration.

After a lengthy debate, the House decided to refer the resolution to the House Judiciary and Government Operations for further review.

Reps. Stanley T. Torres, Victor Hocog, Oscar M. Babauta, Francisco Dela Cruz, and Raymond Palacios co-sponsored the resolution.

The document echoes the concerns expressed by Fitial about the potential impact of the new immigration law on the Commonwealth's economy, and in particular, the ability of local businesses to hire foreign workers under the federalized immigration system.

It also commends Fitial for seeking legal advice from an independent law firm before making a final decision on whether to bring the lawsuit to the federal courts.

Rep. Heinz Hofschneider was the first to speak on the House floor about the resolution. He said the CNMI government should exhaust diplomatic means before considering legal action. He added that the lawsuit has little chance of success and might end up backfiring against the Commonwealth.

"Even if we win, we still lose," Hofschneider said. "Assuming the court sides with the CNMI government, it will at the minimum send the law back to the U.S. Congress and tell the congressmen to be fair and subject the Commonwealth to immigration laws that apply to everyone else. This lawsuit, instead of protecting the spirit of the Covenant, will end dismantling it."

Rep. Diego Benavente said it is premature to file the lawsuit. "If we're not challenging the U.S. government's authority to apply federal immigration to us, then what are we challenging exactly? The provision on foreign workers will not go into effect in five years, maybe more. We don't even know how it will apply exactly since the regulations are still being drafted."

Benavente also lashed at the Fitial administration for the often-antagonistic way it dealt with the U.S. government while the bill was being drafted. "Perhaps, the reason we cannot take the diplomatic avenue now is because the administration does not have a good relationship with its federal counterpart," he said.

Rep. Joseph Reyes said his main concern is the cost of litigation. He also raised concern about the fact that unidentified private individuals are funding the legal review being done by the U.S. law firm, Jenner & Block.

Rep. Tina Sablan echoed Reyes' sentiment and called on the House JGO Committee to investigate whether it is legal for the CNMI government to accept private funding for the lawsuit.

Hocog, who had signed the resolution, admitted to having mixed feelings about the resolution after hearing his colleagues' arguments.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero is one of the two members who spoke in favor of the governor's plan. He said there is merit to Fitial's arguments about the Commonwealth's right to self-government and the economic impact of the immigration law.

"It's not a matter of federalization 'potentially' having an adverse impact on the economy. It 'will' have an impact. And although there are some things that may be negotiated during the drafting of the regulations, there are a lot of things that cannot be changed," Guerrero said.

He also approved of the governor's decision to hire an independent law firm to review the case before filing it.

For his part, Dela Cruz played down what the resolution was trying to express. He said the document is not urging for a lawsuit, it is only calling for more study.

Signed in May 2008, the new immigration law will go into full effect in mid-2009.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP08-CRM-075

Submission Due Date: July 28, 2008 • Time: 2:00 p.m.

" TO CONDUCT A NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IMPACT REPORT FOR USE OF CNMI BEACHES AND THE SAIPAN LAGOON FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE MORGEN BUILDING ON BEACH ROAD IN SAN JOSE OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRMO NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNER AT (670) 664-8311, OR BY EMAILING **kathy.yuknavage@crm.gov.mp.**

QUESTION REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO DR. JOHN B. JOYNER, CRMO DIRECTOR AT (670) 664-8315 NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **JULY 22, 2008.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph. D.
Director, CRM

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

AMP to host ukulele jam on Saturday

This summer, the American Memorial Park will be kicking off a jam session of ukulele players and aficionados—an event that is hoped will become an annual event.

Dubbed as the First Uke Jam in the Park, the event will be held on Saturday, July 26, from 5pm to 7pm on the Amphitheater grounds.

This will be a casual gathering of youth and adults who like to play or are willing to learn and who enjoy listening or singing along.

"There will be no concert per se but the folks will be able to relax and play or learn new techniques," said Park Ranger Nancy Kelchner "If it happens that a group or individual want to play on the stage of the Amphitheater, then fabulous!"

Kelchner said Luis Wabol, himself an accomplished ukulele player, came up with the idea and is coordinating the project. There will be two park rangers and two volunteers for the event.

For more information, contact Kelchner at 234-7207, 483-7253, e-mail at nancy_kelchner@nps.gov, or mail at P.O. Box 5198 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. ***(PR)***

House OKs vote on constitutional convention

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives yesterday approved a resolution calling for a vote on whether to hold a constitutional convention.

The resolution, adopted by a vote of 9-8, proposes to submit the question of calling a constitutional convention to the voters this coming election. The resolution now heads to the Senate for concurrence.

Proponents of the resolution have said that it is more practical to hold a constitutional convention than to have voters decide separately on the many constitutional amendments proposed in the Legislature.

There are at least 25 legislative initiatives now pending in the Senate and House of Representatives.

Opponents of the resolutions have said a constitutional convention is untimely, given that the people voted against it only three years ago. It is also potentially expensive, they added. According to Rep. Victor Hocog, it would cost about $400,000.

The House members who voted in favor of the resolution are Reps. Edwin Aldan, Diego Benevente, Joseph Deleon Guerrero, Victor Hocog, Arnold Palacios, Raymond Palacios, Joseph Reyes, Edward Salas, and Ramon Tebuteb.

Those who opposed the resolution are Reps. David Apatang, Oscar Babauta, Joseph Camacho, Francisco Dela Cruz, Heinz Hofschneider, Tina Sablan, Stanley Torres Jr., and Ray Yumul.

Reps. Justo Quitugua, Rosemond Santos, and Ralph Anthony Torres were absent.

Sponsored by Santos, the resolution has been recommended for adoption by the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

The committee, which is chaired by Santos, said the number of pending initiatives indicates the Constitution is in need of change.

"[A constitutional convention] will allow for greater discussion and thorough review of all proposed changes to the Constitution. The people will be better informed about each initiative through this deliberative process," the committee said in a report.

"Amending the Constitution through legislative initiatives and popular initiatives is feasible when the proposed changes are nominal. However, with all the proposed changes being submitted, it would be more prudent and more beneficial to have representatives at a constitutional convention whose sole duty will be to focus on the Constitution amendments," it added.

The Constitution states that the Legislature should submit the question of calling a constitutional convention to the voters every 10 years. The last constitutional convention was held in 1995.



FAVORITE PASTIME
Young adults spend their summer vacation frolicking at the beach behind Palms Resort Saipan.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Yumul faces one-year deployment to Iraq

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Saipan Rep. Ray N. Yumul will take a one-year break from his lawmaking duties to serve in the U.S. military.

Yumul, who is serving his second term as a member of the House of Representatives, is one of the 80 local members of the U.S. Army Reserve who have been called to active duty recently.


Yumul

The reservists will leave in batches early next week. They will head to Fort Liggett in California to undergo one month of military training. They are expected to report for deployment to the Middle East shortly after the training.

Yumul, 35, said he would return in September 2009 to serve out the last four months of his term.

This is the second time Yumul will be away on military duty while in office. He spent about one year and a half of his first term serving in Iraq.

"Personally, I would rather be here working at the Legislature and helping solve the Commonwealth's problems with the power crisis and dwindling resources. But this is an involuntary deployment. I am obliged to go," he said.

Rep. Victor Hocog is expected to take over the House Committee on Ways and Means Committee, which is chaired by Yumul, during the latter's absence. House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios will control the expenditures of Yumul's office.

Yumul will continue to be paid his salary as a lawmaker while he is away.

Yumul said he expects to be assigned in Kuwait, but conducting convoy operations in and out of Iraq.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Solomons lawmaker gets 18 months in prison

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—East Honiara MP Charles Dausabea was sent to 18 months in prison on Friday after the High Court rejected his appeal against the jail term. He also lost his parliamentary seat as a result of the ruling. The Magistrate Court in April this year found Dausabea guilty of fraudulently converting SB$40,000 [US$5,700] of public funds for his own use. He was sentenced to 18 months in jail and ordered to repay the stolen money. The crime was committed in 2001, when Dausabea was Member of Parliament for East Honiara and chairman of Government Caucus. Dausabea's lawyer Charles Ashley appealed the sentence and conviction while his client remained on bail. But Justice Cameron on Friday rejected the appeal and upheld the magistrate's ruling.

Fiji's Rabuka is adviser to Nepal's new government

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's former Prime Minister and coup strongman Sitiveni Rabuka has advised the world's newest republic, Nepal, to use dialogue as the way to solve its political problems. Rabuka made the comment after returning from Nepal, where he has been advising the new government, after the fall of the 200-year-old monarchy. He told Radio Australia's Fiji correspondent Samisoni Pareti that he met the former kingdom's leaders, including former king Gyanendra. Rabuka said the deposed king seemed to be adapting well to his new, less opulent lifestyle. "I met him when he was living in a very humble bungalow above the city, very few staff around," he said. Gyanendra gave up the crown after a deal with the Maoist-dominated government that took control after elections.

Honiara hotel rises from ashes of 2006 riot

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Star/PIR)—A hotel that was burnt down during the April 2006 riot in Honiara is now back in full-scale operations. Pacific Casino Hotel was burnt down by looters who were protesting against the election of Snyder Rini as the country's Prime Minister. A hotel spokesperson yesterday told the Solomon Star that all the hotel's services are now back to normal with much improved services. The hotel was opened after the completion of a few rooms, followed by the opening of its bar, restaurant and just recently the opening of all services affected by the rioting. "It is like the myth of phoenix bird which died and from its ashes came about a new beautiful bird," the hotel spokesperson said. "Pacific Casino Hotel, from the ashes as a result of the April 2006 rioting, we are able to rebuild and provide a beautiful and elegant hotel with deluxe services."

First Tongan dictionary nears completion

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Tonga Broadcasting Commission/PIR)—Work on the first Tongan dictionary with Tongan word meanings explained in the Tongan language is currently being completed. This work is being led by Dr. Melenaite Taumoefolau who is a lecturer at the University of Auckland on Tongan language and Pacific Studies. The current Tongan dictionary has Tongan word meanings explained in the English language and Dr. Taumoefolau said that in 2005 they began working with government school teachers in familiarising them with the Tongan words and meanings in preparation for the compilation of this full—Tongan dictionary, a vision borne from one of Tonga's very own education experts. The idea of the Tongan dictionary was first raised by one of the longest serving officers in Tonga's ministry of education, Dr. 'Ana Taufe'ulungaki.

Tonga minister urges continued police powers

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Minister of Police in Tonga says the police should continue to have extra powers because of simmering unrest, particularly in the central business district of Nuku'alofa. A State of Emergency has been in place over the country on a month-by-month basis for almost 20 months after rioters destroyed the bulk of the central business district.. Siaosi Aho says the police also have extra powers to call on the military for assistance in an area covering several blocks in the capital under the Order in Public Places Act. He says continuing both measures makes people feel safe.

Fiji to trim prices for kerosene, outboard motor fuel

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Fiji's price regulator, the Prices and Incomes Board, intends to reduce the maximum retail percentage markups for two petroleum commodities—kerosene and premix outboard fuel. It will soon issue a 14-day notice to this effect. The retail percentage mark-up is intended to be reduced from the existing 10 per cent to 7 per cent, which will mean consumers can be saving up to 3 cents to 4 cents per litre on these two commodities. The notice, directed to all retailers of kerosene and premixed outboard fuel, will be issued this Friday (July 11) and the retail price reduction will be effective upon expiry of the notice.

CUC

From Page 1

two years to act on their complaint of a leaking pipe in their area. The Castillano couple also stated that apparently due to the leak problem, CUC had billed them $1,883 for a one-month water supply.

CUC Water and Sewer Division deputy director Bruce Megarr told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that two of its crew were sent yesterday morning to Publiku Street.

"We had a truck on standby," Megarr said.

He said the crews were waiting for representatives from the telephone company or other agencies that might have underground structures in the area such as phone lines.

"So when we start digging we don't cut off phone services for the entire neighborhood. Sometimes that coordination becomes difficult, especially when it is raining," he said.

The deputy director said representatives of other agencies did not arrive because they were busy due to the fire in Chalan Piao yesterday.

"When we stick a backhoe on the earth, we need to have clearance from the Department of Public Works. We need to have clearance from the telephone company. We need to have clearance from power that there's nothing underground that we're going to be hit," he said.

Megarr said they're expecting to mark up the place yesterday and that they will begin work today, Thursday.

"As long as we can get the underground structures identified, we can proceed with the repairs," he said.

On the $1,883 billing to the Castillano couple, Megarr said there was an error in the water reading. He said Mr. Castillano's meter is in fact in the process of being replaced.

"We are not going to charge him. This is a meter reading error. Are we sure how much water went through his meter? No, we're not. So we are going to give Mr. Castillano the benefit of the doubt," he said.

Megarr said CUC would assess Castillano's usage over the next couple of months and apply that usage going back to when the dispute first began.

FIRE

From Page 1

control the flames at 3:30pm, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Witnesses said an MGM guard that first noticed the fire ordered the workers to evacuate their barracks, located right next to the burning structure.

The workers, mostly Chinese, were then sleeping in their barracks on the second and third floors of the three-story building. They ran outside the compound and many were screaming as they hurriedly left their rooms.

Behind the barracks was the single story tin-roofed factory that went up in flames.

As of 11am yesterday, Department of Public Safety Fire Division acting deputy director Tom Manglona declared that 80 percent of the fire was already contained.

"Until both areas [south and north] are secured, that's the only time we can say that the fire is under control," Manglona told *Saipan Tribune* at the scene. The Fire division set up a command post across MGM's main entrance.

Manglona said DPS received a call about the fire at 4:52am. After that, MGM security guards evacuated the 200-plus workers.

"Everybody is accounted for and no one was hurt," said Manglona.

He said a major portion in the central part of the factory building was completely burned.

"We're trying to control the exposure of the fuel that's stored for the generators," he said, adding that they also tried to ensure that some LPG tanks in the compound don't catch fire. Some chemicals used for cleaning were not affected by the fire, he said.

Manglona said he couldn't tell yet what started the blaze.

Based on the investigators' initial assessment, the blaze started in the southern end or the production line of the factory. It immediately spread to other portions of the factory because of the clothing materials.

Manglona said there was no explosion.

As of 11am, Manglona said most of the fire was under control, but not completely yet.

"We've got two areas we're working on—the southern and the northern ends," he said.

He said the employees' barracks only had exterior damage at the back side.

Obybur Rahman, an MGM security guard, said he was at the main entrance gate when he noticed smoke coming from inside the factory at about 4:45am.

Rahman said he immediately called police, went to the barracks and alerted the workers about the fire.

After a few minutes, the compound lost power, Rahman said.

He said he was the lone guard at the time in the main entrance. Two other guards were on other sides of the compound.

John Hirsh, executive director of the American Red Cross NMI Chapter, said 230 to 250 people living in the factory's compound have been relocated to the United International Corp. garment factory's housing area in San Antonio.

"Usually, when there is a major fire like this, our first role is to make sure that the victims or the people who have been affected by the fire are at least in a safe place," he said.

Their next responsibility, Hirsh said, is to support the first responders.

Once things settle down a bit, Red Cross will be interviewing the family members and the workers on how they could be helped, he said.

"Right now, it is not clear exactly how much damage there was. We need to work with the fire department and determine exactly what was destroyed and how bad it was," he said.

The Red Cross provided food and drinks to the responders. Hirsh said they will also be providing food to the affected workers.

Over 100 first responders from different agencies were seen in the area. Aside from DPS and Commonwealth Ports Authority firefighters, there were also police officers and personnel from the Emergency Management Office, American Red Cross, Division of Environmental Quality, and Department of Public Works.

Police officers rerouted the traffic flow in the vicinity of the factory.

On Monday afternoon, fire burned the entire second floor of a commercial building in Garapan, rendering 24 to 27 people homeless. Fire investigators determined that faulty electrical wiring caused the blaze.

FRAUD

From Page 1

tion treasurer of defrauding the local government.

In one suit, the AG's office says Federated Sector Enterprises, a consulting firm managed by Ferdinand Aranza, bilked the Commonwealth out of more than $130,000 through a contract directing the company to write a port security plan for the government which it instead plagiarized.

A separate suit says Maria Lourdes Ada, now the treasurer for the Board of Education, violated regulations during her tenure as executive director of the Commonwealth Development Authority by having her sick leave converted into vacation time and then later exchanging that unused time for cash, a maneuver that gained her over $59,000.

The suit against Aranza stems from a contract that former governor Juan Babauta inked with his company in 2003 to develop a plan for winning additional Department of Homeland Security funding, according to the complaint filed in CNMI Superior Court.

After finalizing the contract, Aranza, a former director with the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, convinced government officials to amend it by including a deal paying his company to craft the port security plan, the complaint says, a project for which the firm charged 618 billable hours.

Yet sections of the plan Aranza's company produced are "verbatim from the United States Coast Guard's regulations," the complaint says, adding that in other sections it "merely rephrases the USCG regulations."

Consequently, the complaint says the number of hours Aranza's company billed the government for writing the plan is "implausible."

Moreover, the complaint says Aranza's amendment to the contract violated the Commonwealth's procurement regulations and is void. Aranza also misled government officials, it says, into believing the plan had to be complete by the end of 2003 or else federal officials would bar ships from arriving at local ports.

The complaint seeks punitive damages.

Efforts to reach Federated Sector Enterprises at their offices in Washington, DC, for a response revealed the company's phone lines are disconnected and its e-mail system is out of service.

In the suit filed against Ada, who served as CDA's head from 1998 until her retirement in 2005, the AG's office says she converted her sick leave to paid vacation time after a memorandum from then CDA chair Juan Tenorio told her and staff this was an accepted practice and that the time could later be "cashed out."

A prior CDA policy statement, however, had already said that converting the time violated regulations but the complaint notes that Ada nevertheless continued doing it and also encouraged her staff to accept cash payments for sick leave. This activity later caught the eye of a public auditor and an inquiry followed.

Assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer notes in a July 1 letter to Ada that the government has repeatedly asked her to settle the debts linked to her sick leave, adding that attorneys gave her a 10-year time period to make the payments.

In an interview Wednesday afternoon, Ada said she had not yet seen the complaint against her and gave no further comment.

68 pass initial DPS tests for police, fire cadets

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Forty-four applicants for police cadets and 24 applicants for fire cadets have passed the assessment and agility tests conducted by the Department of Public Safety.

DPS commissioner Claudio K. Norita on Tuesday said a total of 44 applicants who passed the assessment and agility tests for police cadets were scheduled for interview yesterday.

Norita said 24 other applicants for fire cadets would be interviewed next week.

He said the 68 were among the over 300 people who applied for the slots of 20 police officers and 16 firefighters.


Norita

Although applicants could get high scores during interview, Norita said the actual hiring will also depend on the background check.

"If everything goes as planned now, hopefully we want to start the academy on Aug. 4, 2008," said Norita, adding that the schedule is actually two months delayed than originally planned.

Once the interview is completed, the successful applicants should pass the background or criminal records check. The top 36 applicants will then be picked and hired to become police and firefighter cadets.

DPS is hiring police officers and firefighters due to the scheduled July 14 deployment of 32 police officers and firefighters to the Middle East. Many positions at DPS are also vacant because of retirement and resignation of officers and firefighters. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Wire thieves deserve substantial prison terms'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Substantial prison penalties await copper wire thieves, according to Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman.

"It is this court's position that the deterrence, retribution and incapacitation factors of sentencing should be of the utmost consideration, with a strong message sent out to those potential copper wire thieves and other offenders, that substantial penalties await them if they engage in these reckless and senseless criminal activities," Wiseman said.

The judge issued the strong statement against copper wire thieves in his written order sentencing four persons—Roland Kaipat, Vicente Kaipat, Jeffrey C. Magofna, and John Santos Jr.—to prison.

The four were charged in connection with the stealing of copper wires from the former La Fiesta Mall in As Matuis on Nov. 20, 2007.

Wiseman noted the rampant activities of copper wire thieves in the community, victimizing many public facilities as well as private and commercial buildings.

"When someone dismantles copper wire from a building, residence or a public way or utility, the magnitude of the repercussions from such act is widespread," he said.

He said the reckless conduct of copper wire thieves is perhaps due to the lack of a deterrent factor such as a substantial amount of jail time for perpetrators.

Wiseman ordered the brothers Vicente and Roland Kaipat to spend two years in prison for burglary and theft.

He placed the Kaipats on five years of supervised probation and required them, among other things, to pay $2,000 in restitution to the government and a $600 fine and court and assessment fee.

For Magofna, the judge sentenced him to five years in prison for burglary, theft, and illegal possession of a controlled substance in two cases. Wiseman gave Magofna credit for the 136 days he has already served in jail.

He placed Magofna on five years or probation and required him, among other things, to pay a $2,000 fine, and $600 in fine and court assessment fee.

With respect to Santos, the judge sentenced him to three years, all suspended except for one day, because he was only convicted of criminal mischief. Santos was given a one-day credit for the time he has already spent in jail.

He was ordered, however, to pay $2,000 in restitution and $525 in fine and court assessment fee.

$6.6M sought for 2 Saipan road projects

The House of Representatives has asked the Fitial administration to set aside $6.6 million in federal funds for two major road construction projects.

A House resolution adopted yesterday calls on Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Public Works Secretary Diego Songsong to ensure funding for the design and construction of roads and drainage from Capital Hill to Mt. Tapochau, and from Chalan Galaide to Navy Hill.

According to the lawmakers, DPW and the Saipan Mayor's Office have already spent too much money maintaining the two coral roads.

The House members noted that, by paving the roads and fixing the drainage systems, the government will save money and provide better access to Mt. Tapochao, which is a popular tourist spot. The public will also benefit once the government fixes Chalan Galaide. Capital Hill residents use the road as a short cut to Navy Hill.

The House members suggested that federal highway funds be reserved for the projects in these installments: $650,000 in fiscal year 2009, $2.975 million in FY2010, and another $2.975 million in FY2011. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Public Utility Commission, hereby give notice that the Public Utility Commission will hold its Emergency Meeting on Saturday, July 12, 2008 at 2:30 p.m. at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on Saipan.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a. Call to Order
b. Roll Call

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
a. RFP 08-001 for legal services
b. Utility regulation consultants
c. Hearing officer
d. PUC staff

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. MISCELLANEOUS
a. Announcements
b. Next Meeting
c. Adjournment

/s/ **VIOLA ALEPUYO**
Commissioner, Public Utilities Commission



NMC workshop seeks to spur aquaculture industry

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
stefan_sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

In a bid to spur the development of an aquaculture industry in the Commonwealth, Northern Marianas College and non-profit groups today launched a two-day workshop on Saipan to give local entrepreneurs the inside knowledge they need to cultivate commercial marine crops like fish and shrimp.

Worldwide, aquaculture has become the fastest spreading method of food production, according National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration statistics. Nearly half of the fish consumed worldwide each year are raised on fish farms, NOAA says, with global aquaculture production earning $70 billion annually.

A burgeoning aquaculture sector could give a significant economic boost to the Commonwealth at a time when it is facing a downturn, NMC president Carmen Fernandez said in a press conference Wednesday. "This is a really wonderful opportunity for our people" Fernandez said. "It couldn't happen at a better time."

Thursday's workshop will include talks on shrimp production, bio-security and import/export rules for shipping live aquatic species. On Friday, the workshop will host a talk by local shrimp farmer Anthony Pellegrino, a presentation on environmental permitting and a discussion on writing a business plan for an aquaculture venture.

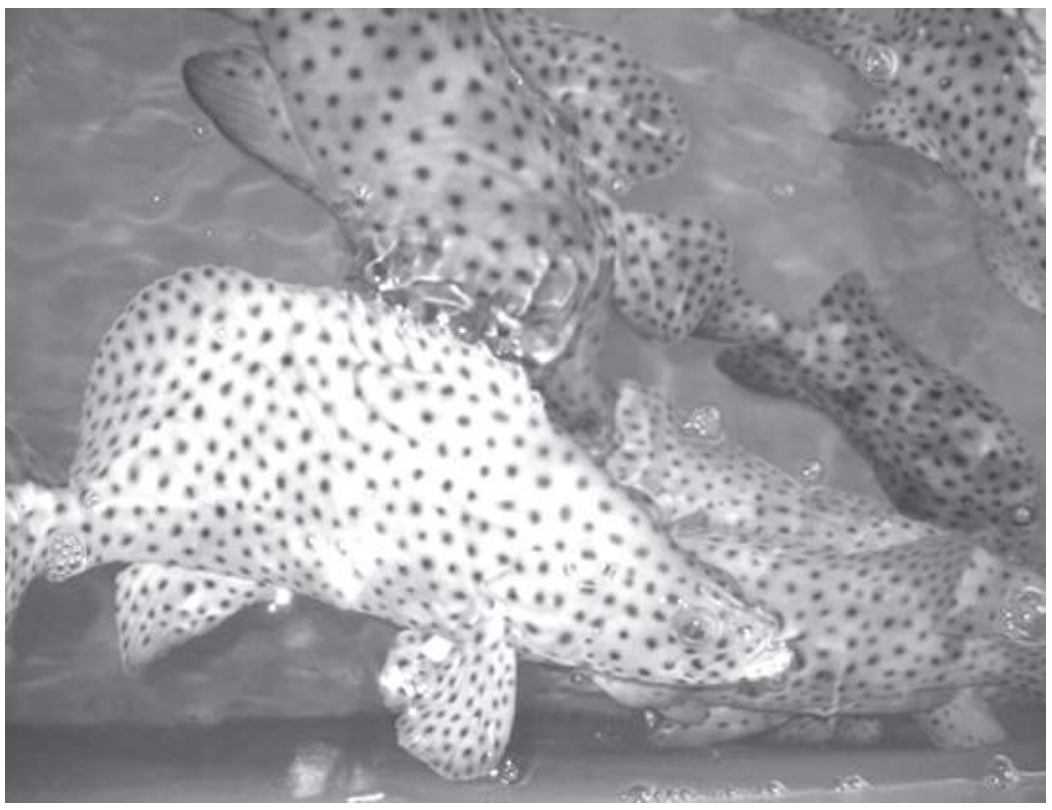
"The CNMI is really uniquely poised to do some exciting things in the context of aquaculture," said Dustin Moss, research associate for the Oceanic Institute, who is holding a talk on shrimp cultivation today.

Moss noted the Commonwealth's relatively isolated location provides the "bio-security" needed to safeguard aquacultural crops. Moreover, the high quality of the local seawater creates good conditions for cultivating ocean resources like fish and crustaceans for sale on the commercial market.

"There's a real strategic advantage here," Moss said. "We now have to bring over the technology and muster up the political will to support this endeavor. We really truly believe that aquaculture can be a viable industry here."

The workshop, set to take place today and Friday at World Resort, comes as the college is now in search of a site for a new marine science center where aquaculture research can be conducted in addition to educational courses.

NMC Aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo said the center's research into local growing conditions might prove critical in laying the scientific groundwork aquaculture businesses would need in the future. Fernandez said estimates suggest the center will cost $200,000 to $300,000.



ROMAIN FOKI

A pond of broodstock humpback grouper.

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50 Japanese attend memorial ceremony

Fifty Japanese attended the first Northern Marianas Memorial ceremony held yesterday at 10am at Marpi, during which they prayed for those who perished on the island during World War II.

The group arrived two days ago with their leader, Chiaki Nagumo, who has been named an honorary tourism ambassador for the CNMI for a year now.

Nagumo was on Saipan two years ago, where he did a beach cleanup at the Paupau Beach with Beautify CNMI.

The Marianas Visitors Authority organized everything such as the tents, chairs, and speakers for yesterday's ceremony.

"I am pleased to join you in this memorial ceremony. Since the end of World War II, the CNMI has seen significant increase in the number of memorial monuments in the CNMI," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry John Tenorio during a speech after the ceremony.

"Monuments such as this one serves as a place to remember departed love ones and to pray for world peace. As the years goes by, let us continue to pay tribute to our fallen loved ones by remembering them in our hearts and continue to pray for peace," he added.

"The people of Japan and the Northern Marianas have strong ties spanning over 87 years, beginning with their administration of the islands as a Japanese Mandated Territory. Your presence here is a testament bond of friendship is as strong now as it was then," he said. "I extend our appreciation for your visit and we look forward to welcoming you back to our islands in the near future."

Japanese singer Goro Noguchi, who got married to Japanese actress Yuri Mitsui on Rota in 2001, was at the ceremony yesterday.

Today, Noguchi will be joined by other Japanese celebrities such as Kojiro Shimizu, Tamotsu Ishibashi, Shoko Hamada, Yoshimi Hamasaki, and Marika Minami in a charity concert at the Sandcastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan at 6pm. Tickets are available at the Sandcastle counter for $100 for two persons. The ticket includes a three-course dinner with coffee and tea.

For further information, call Ms. Kobayashi at 483-7265. ***(Jacqueline Dela Cruz)***

Family sponsors sought for student exchange program

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office is looking for families to sponsor young Japanese students this summer for the 29th Annual Kokusai Seisyounen Kensyuu Kyokai exchange program from July 25 to Aug. 1, 2008, and for the 30th Annual SANPO-EN from July 28 to Aug. 4, 2008.

The KSKK will comprise students between the ages of 8 and16, while the SANPO-EN will have students between the ages of 10 and 17 years old.

As a tradition, the exchange program involves sending Saipan students to Japan to learn about their culture and lifestyles. The students stay for a few days at a youth hostel, which is similar to a dormitory, then lives for two days with Japanese families. This home stay program allows these students to gain experience and exposes them to the local culture and daily lifestyle.

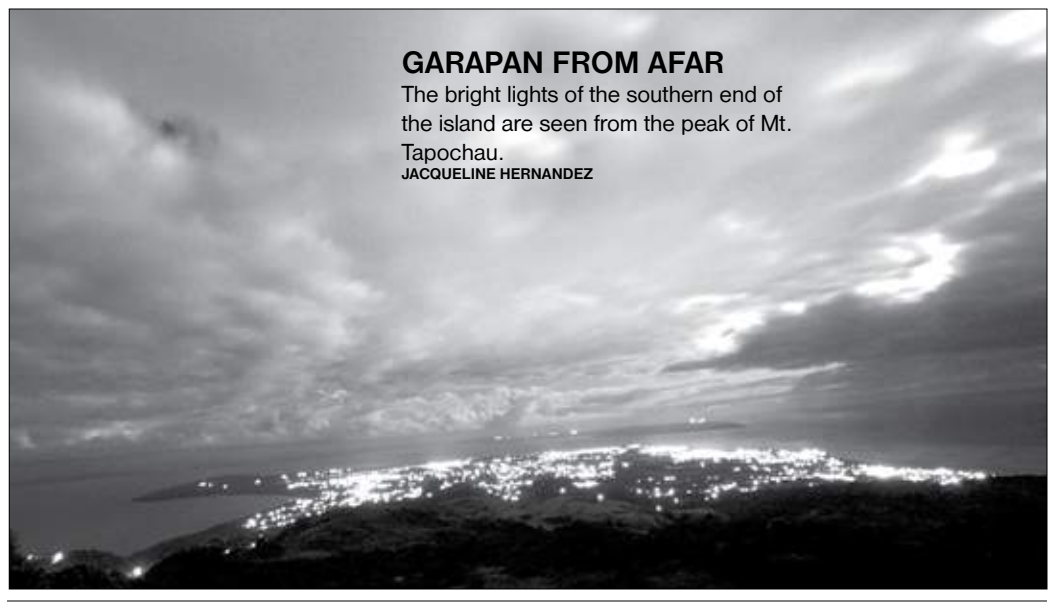
In return, Japanese students travel to Saipan, usually in the summer time, and experience the same thing.

This year, the KSKK group, composed of 21 students, will experience home stay for eight days on Saipan.

The SANPO-EN group, with 30 students, will require two days of home stay from Aug. 1 to Aug. 3, 2008.

"For more than two decades we have been conducting this cultural exchange program as a tradition. We need your support, so that we can continue this friendship between the two countries. We would like to set up a sponsor list for those families who are willing to open up their homes to these young Japanese students who are more than anxious to learn about our island style and culture," said Mayor's Youth Programs coordinator Olinka Cabrera Chaudhry.

Any interested families may contact Chaudhry at the Saipan Mayor's Office at 234-6208 / 234-6280 / 235-7304.



GARAPAN FROM AFAR
The bright lights of the southern end of the island are seen from the peak of Mt. Tapochau.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

EMO issues alert vs flooding, low visibility

The CNMI Emergency Management Office is alerting all motorists in the Commonwealth to be extra careful when on the road due to heavy rainfall that is expected to cause low visibilities and flooding in low-lying areas.

Excessive runoff from heavy rainfall will cause elevated river or stream flows, ponding of water in urban areas, highways, streets and underpasses as well as other poor drainage areas and low lying spots.

In hilly terrain, there are hundreds of low water crossings that are potentially dangerous in heavy rain and these include San Antonio, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Garapan, Koblerville, Tanapag, San Rogue and in front of Saipan Ice in Lower Base, EMO said.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the EMO, weather observations indicated that 0.56 inches of rain had already fallen as of 11:27am yesterday.

"Weather satellite and radar shows substantial additional rainfall approaching, and if total rainfall is enough to temporarily overwhelm drainage systems, the problems will likely persist for several hours after the rain stops," said EMO.

The agency is strongly advising residents and motorists to take extra precautionary measures in low-lying areas and while driving on public highways for ponds of water and sometimes low visibilities. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



4TH OF JULY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Spectacular fireworks light up the sky for almost 20 minutes in celebration of the 62nd Liberation Day Friday night at the Garapan Fishing Base festival grounds.

Summer courses teach students about CNMI's marine resources

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Coral Reef Conservation Program has opened an opportunity for high school students to learn about the Commonwealth's marine resources as a means to make them more active in managing and developing the local fishing industry.

Eight high school students on Saipan took up summer courses at the Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fishery Compound Building in Lower Base from June 30 to July 11, 2008, at 8:30 am - 3:30pm, Monday to Friday.

"This is the first time that we have a program like this, but we are looking to have more and to start having this program every year," said course coordinator Richard Seman.

The goal is to help high school students learn of local marine resources and to have them more actively involved in the management and development of a sustainable fishing industry in the Commonwealth. Also, the courses aimed to have high school students understand the dynamics of sustainability and how to achieve it progressively.

Students learned many things during the two-week sessions, including fish biology and habitat, coral reef, cultural and traditional fishing, fishing gear and techniques, seafood safety and handling, fish cleaning and preparation, fisheries economics and marketing, fishery data and creel sampling, fisheries research, fisheries conservation and management, fishing rules and regulations, marine preserves / sanctuaries, fisheries enforcement program, and first aid and CPR certifications.

About 20 presenters have volunteered to provide valuable instruction on their respective expertise. Some presenters are marine biologists, resources managers, fishermen, regulatory enforcement officers, fish processors, environmental specialists, cultural practitioners, community and social relief volunteers, and statisticians.

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, a federal agency under the U.S. Department of Commerce, sponsored the summer courses.

For more information, contact Jack Ogumoro at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources at 322-9830, or Seman 687-2772, or email marfishmag@gmail.com.

Red flag up at Jeffries Beach

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on Jeffries Beach and is warning the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The division said samples collected from Jeffries Beach were found to contain concentrations of enterocci, a fecal indicator bacteria, that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns. The red flag is, therefore, being issued as a precautionary measure.

DEQ analyzed samples taken from 12 Saipan east and south recreational beaches this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any questions about this matter. ***(DEQ)***

New Caledonia reefs, ancient PNG farm make it to world heritage list

SUVA, Fiji (Oceania Flash/PIR)—New Caledonia's lagoons and reef ecosystems have been added on Monday (Canada time) to the UNESCO's prestigious world heritage list, in the natural environment category, the United Nations Education Science and Culture organization confirmed.

The French government had officially filed the official bid, on behalf of its South Pacific dependency, in February 2007.

New Caledonia's unique lagoons and reefs ecosystem is believed to be the world's second largest, just after the Australian Great Barrier Reef. Overall, New Caledonia's bid pertains to six sites covering an area of about 15,700 square kilometers.

These include the grand Southern Lake, the region of Foa-Bourail, the coastal region of North East, the grand Northern Lake, the Entrecasteaux Reef and Ouvea-Beautemps Beaupré reef.

The New Caledonian Reef has a unique biodiversity of which only 20 percent is known. It is estimated that New Caledonia is home to about 15,000 marine species and about 700 coral types.

Also on Monday, the World Heritage Committee added another Pacific island site to its list, thus marking PNG's entry into the World Heritage family.

The selected site is located in Kuk (Southern Highlands of Papua new Guinea's main island). It consists of 116 hectares of swamps 1,500 metres above sea—level.

"Archaeological excavation has revealed the landscape to be one of wetland reclamation worked almost continuously for 7,000, and possibly for 10,000 years. It contains well-preserved archaeological remains demonstrating the technological leap that transformed plant exploitation to agriculture around 6,500 years ago. Kuk is one of the few places in the world where archaeological evidence suggests independent agricultural development and changes in agricultural practice over such a long period of time," the UNESCO World Heritage Committee said in a release.

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting for Thursday, July 10, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #106, San Jose; Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

I **PRELIMINARIES**
- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda

II **NEW BUSINESS**
- CUC Issues

III **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.

V **MISCELLANEOUS**

VII **ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

How-to on donating to RP typhoon victims

The Philippine Consulate General has been receiving many inquiries on how to send financial donations to the relief drive for the recent victims of Typhoon Frank and has issued a set of guidelines on how to do so.

Per presidential directive, the donations and other forms of assistance voluntarily given by the international community for the victims of Typhoon Frank may be sent to either the National Disaster Coordinating Council or the Philippine National Red Cross:

1. Cash or check donations can be deposited in the following bank accounts:

NDCC ACCOUNT

Bank: DBP Camp Aguinaldo Branch
Camp Aguinaido, Quezon City
Acct Name: NDCC Donated Fund
Acct. No. 0-00149-435-3
Swift Code: DBPHDHMM Acct. No. 36002016

PNRC ACCOUNTS

Peso Account

a. Bank: Metrobank, Port Area Branch
Anda Circle, Port Area, Manila
Acct. Name: The Philippine National Red Cross
Acct. No. 151-3-041-63122-8-MBTC
Type of Acct: Savings

b. Bank: Bank of the Philippine Islands
Port Area Branch, Port Area, Manila
Acct. Name: The Philippine National Red Cross
Acct. No. 4991-0010-99
Type of Acct: Current

Dollar Account

a. Bank: Metrobank, Port Area Branch
Anda Circle, Port Area, Manila
Acct. Name: The Philippine National Red Cross
Acct. No. 151-2-151-00218-2
Swift Code: MBTC PH MM

b. Bank: Bank of the Philippine Islands
United Nations Branch, Ermita
Manila
Acct. Name: The Philippine National Red Cross
Acct. No: 8114-0030-94
Type of Account: Savings
Swift Code: BOPIPHMM

For donations to be properly acknowledged by PNRC, the bank transaction slips should be faxed to (632) 525-5654 or 404-0979 with the donor's name, address and contact numbers.

OTHER FORMS OF DONATIONS:

1. SMS and G-Cash (Globe) or Smart donations to PNRC can be sent/texted as follows:

Text: RED<space>AMOUNT to 2899 (Globe)
For G-Cash:
Text: DONATE<space>AMOUNT<space>4-digit M-PIN<space>REDCROSS to 2882

2. Credit Card donations can be sent to (632) 404-0979 and attention to:

Ms. Charina Bognalbal, PNRC with the following information:
a. Name of card number
b. Billing address
c. Contact Numbers (landline and mobile)
d. Credit Card no.
e. Expiry date
f. CCV2/CVC2 (last three digits at the back of the credit card)
g. Amount to be donated (in numbers and words)

3. Guidelines for online donations may be accessed via www.redcross.org.ph

All original papers/documents on documents on donations must be forwarded to this address:

The Philippine National Red Cross
C/O Sec. Gen. Corazon Alma De Leon
National Headquarters
Bonifacio Drive, Port Area
Manila 2803, Philippines

4. Medicines and/or medical and humanitarian missions may be referred to the Office of:

Dr. Virginia Ala
Chief, Bureau of International Health Cooperation
Department of Health
Attention: Ms. Noni Balbino
Chief, Technical Division
Tel: (632) 781-2843
Fax: (632) 781-8843

Other contacts:
Dr. Carmencita Banato
+639178455481

Dr. Arnei Rivera
+639283946756

6.All other queries, including but not limited to, donations of rehabilitation equipment, donation of relief goods, may be directed to the office of:

For NDCC:

Maj. General Glenn J. Rabonza, Administrator NDCC
Attn.: Engr. Florentino Sison
Deputy Chief, Operations Division, NDCC
Tel: (632) 912-5979, 912-2665
Fax: (632) 911-1873, 911-1496,912-5668,912-0984

For PNRC:

Mr. Benjie Delfin
Head, Operations Center
Disaster Management Center
Philippine National Red Cross
Direct Line: (632) 527-0865
Telefax: (632) 524-5787
NDCC updates can be accessed via www.ndcc.gov.ph.

Source: Philippine Consulate General



ANOTHER PEPSI WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Trading Co. representative Robert Atalig, left, presents Isamu Jones with an iPod Touch that he won as part of the Pepsi Twist and Win summer promotion. The promo runs until Aug. 30, 2008.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Signature drive for marine monument

The Friends of the Marianas Trench Monument will be collecting petition signatures in support of the proposed monument at the Saturday market in Susupe, beginning at 8am. Information handouts and additional copies of the petition will be available. Look for Chuck Sayon, Chailang Palacios or Ruth Tighe. ***(PR)***

New Call-A-Ride schedule

The CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities issued a notice yesterday to inform all Call-a-Ride customers of the revised Call-A-Ride bus schedule:

- Monday to Friday
6am to 9pm
- Saturday 8am to 5pm
- Sunday OFF Bus fee $3 one way, $6 round trip

Contact Wildrow Cabrera or Steve Camacho at cell no. 483-9013/9012.

The management and operation of the Saipan Call-A-Ride Accessible Transportation Service program are currently provided by the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities under an annual contract agreement. ***(PR)***

State of the Judiciary Address on Friday

The Legislature will be conducting a joint session this Friday for the State of the Judiciary Address. Lawmakers of both the Senate and the House of Representatives will receive the Judiciary's status report, to be delivered by CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan.

The State of the Judiciary Address will be held July 11, at 10am, in the chamber of the House of Representatives at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

In a notice issued over the weekend, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Senate President Pete P. Reyes are inviting the public to this occasion. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 10, 2000

CDA issues stern warning to borrowers

While consistently stressing that it discourages the practice of foreclosure of properties by delinquent borrowers, the Commonwealth Development Authority last week warned that it may be forced to forfeit properties of clients whose outstanding loans have not been performing in over two years. CDA Board Chair John S. Tenorio said the government-controlled lending agency has already instituted flexible repayment terms to provide borrowers the convenience of paying their monthly amortization at an amount they can afford but some clients have persistently failed to serve their payment terms.

OIA to help CNMI lure new airlines

Office of Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza has pledged to continue assisting the Northern Marianas government in attracting other airlines to service the islands, but said such effort depends on the market conditions. OIA, which has jurisdiction over the CNMI, has been approached by the Commonwealth to draw support from federal agencies, particularly the Department of Transportation and the Federal Aviation Administration, to press its demand for direct flights to Saipan from key Asian cities.

Fund's investment drops $33 million

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's off-island investment reported a net loss of $33,424,334 for the months of April and May this year due to the volatile performance of its investments in stock markets. However, the portfolio return for the current fiscal year (October 1999 to May 2000) still jumped 11.38 percent or a total of $37,925,409. This brings to $371 million the total investment of the Fund for FY 2000.

July 10, 2001

50 Pepero supporters defect to Covenant

Fifty key officials of the Committee-to-Elect-Pepero have defected to the Covenant Party, boosting the chances of Covenant standard-bearer House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial in the November polls. Covenant Party Chair Eloy Inos confirmed the defection, saying this was a direct result of Lt. Gov. Jesus Sablan's decision to withdraw from the gubernatorial race.

Due to funding woes, senator foregoes 3 staff

The shortfall in funds at the Legislature has claimed its first casualties. Three employees of Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero were given termination notices yesterday, leaving the senator with only one staff member. "I feel bad but what can I do? This is due to the budget situation. I must go with it even if it hurts," said Victorino N. Igitol, one of those who were given until August 7 to pack up and leave. The two others were not identified and were unavailable for comment.

Authorities weed out $750K worth of pot

Law enforcement agents last Sunday swooped down on a pot plantation and seized close to 500 pounds of marijuana with an estimated street value of $750,000. A team made up of agents from the CNMI Division of Customs, US Drug Enforcement Agency and the Guam National Guard spotted the marijuana plantation during an aerial inspection around Papago and Kagman.

July 10, 2002

Halong slows down, gains strength

As tropical storm Halong approaches the Marianas region, the Emergency Management Office said it has slowed down its forward movement while gaining wind strength, which makes this weather disturbance feared to be more devastating than typhoon Chata'an. As of 7pm last night, EMO Director Rudolfo Pua said Halong has a maximum sustained wind of 65 miles per hour gusting up to 80 miles per hour, bearing an almost-typhoon strength. At about 4pm Monday, the EMO reported that its strength was just about 46 miles per hour gusting up to 58 miles per hour.

Mayor declares Rota a local disaster area

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has declared the island a local disaster area in the wake of Typhoon Chata'an and has asked Gov. Juan N. Babauta to request President George W. Bush to make a similar declaration on a national level. In line with this, Babauta has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a joint Preliminary Damage Assessment of the island to verify the destruction and estimate the amount needed to bring Rota back to its feet.

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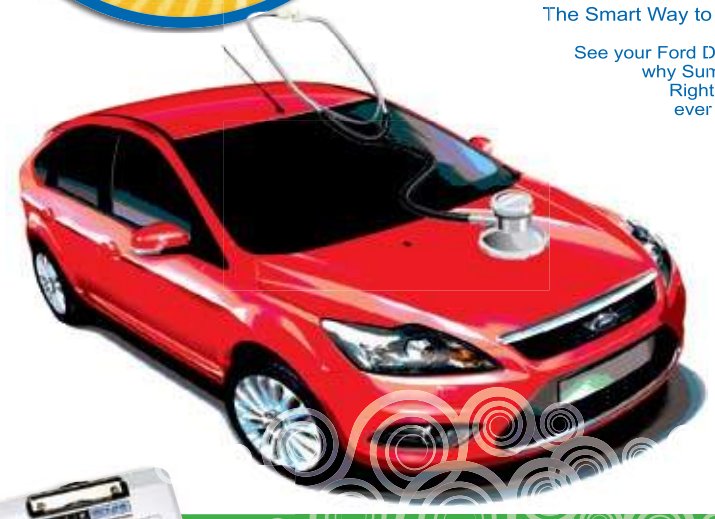
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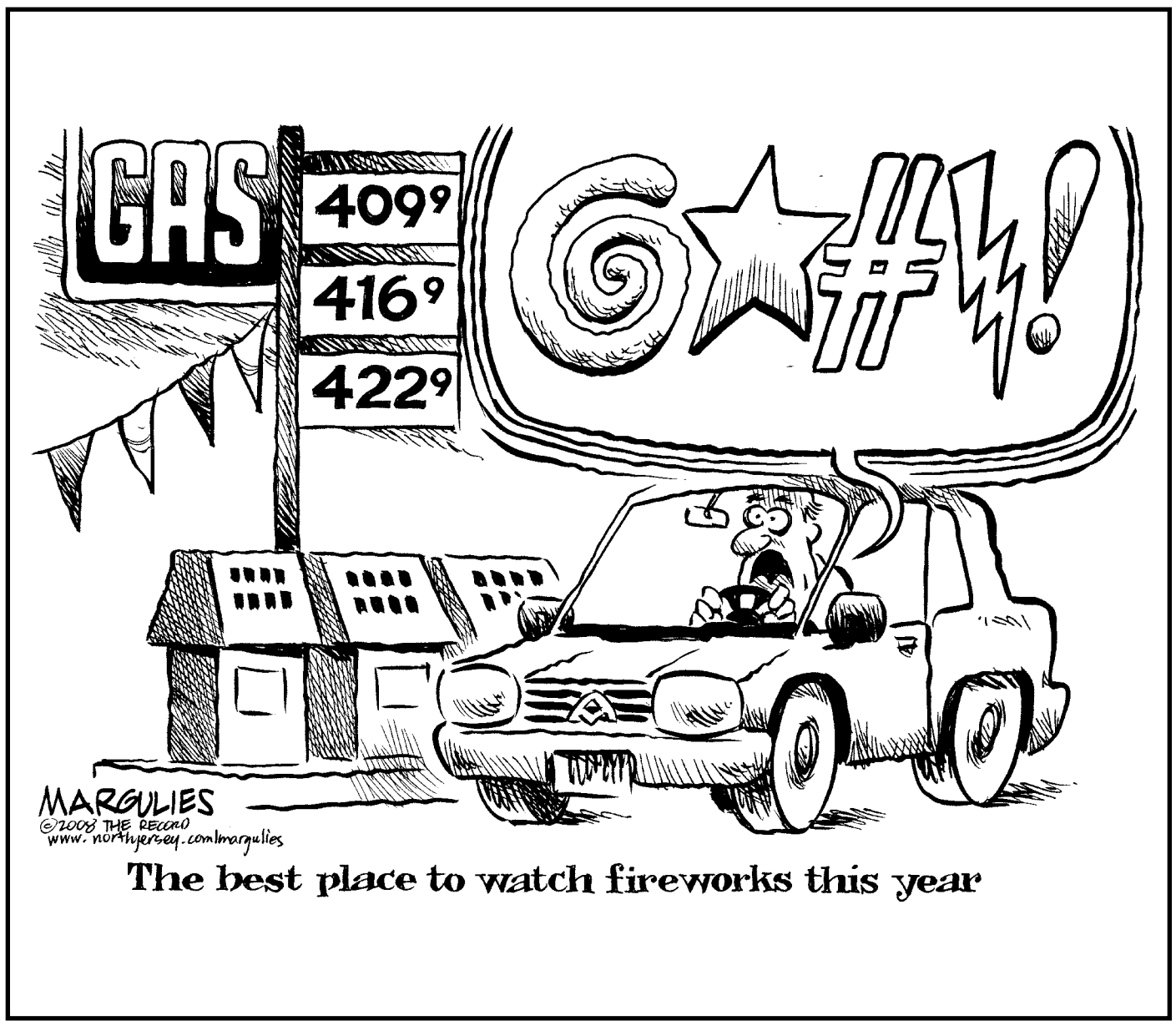
Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Mr. Obama on Iraq

Barack Obama has taken a small but important step toward adjusting his outdated position on Iraq to the military and strategic realities of the war he may inherit. Sadly, he seems to be finding that the strident and rigid posture he struck during the primary campaign—during which he promised to withdraw all combat forces in 16 months—is inhibiting what looks like a worthy, necessary attempt to create the room for maneuver he will need to capably manage the war if he becomes president.

Mr. Obama's shift came when he was asked last week about his withdrawal plan, which he first proposed in late 2006, a time when Iraq appeared to be sliding into a sectarian civil war. Since then, a new U.S. counterinsurgency strategy has helped bring about a dramatic drop in violence, and the Iraqi government has gained control over most of the country. Among other things, Mr. Obama said "the pace of withdrawal would be dictated by the safety and security of our troops and the need to maintain stability"—an apparent acknowledgment that the hard-won gains of the last year should not be squandered. He also said that "when I go to Iraq, and have a chance to talk to some of the commanders on the ground, I'm sure I'll have more information and will continue to refine my policies."

This statement hardly altered Mr. Obama's longstanding opposition to the war or his basic strategy of ending U.S. involvement in it as soon as possible. But it suggested that he won't pursue his 16-month timetable without regard to the consequences in Iraq or the counsel of U.S. commanders. As we see it, that's a modest but real step toward a responsible position on a conflict that, like it or not, involves vital U.S. interests. Yet Mr. Obama's words drew so much heat so quickly that he felt obliged to hold a second news conference the same day, in which he insisted that his position hadn't changed and affirmed that he hadn't seen "information that contradicts the notion" that the 16-month timetable was workable. Over the weekend some of his Democratic supporters argued that he can't afford even such a nuanced shift in position, lest he undermine his anti-war support and lessen the contrast between him and the presumptive Republican nominee, John McCain.

In fact, Mr. Obama can't afford not to update his Iraq policy. Once he has the conversations he's promising with U.S. commanders, he will have plenty of information that "contradicts the notion" of his rigid plan. Iraq's improvement means that American forces probably can be reduced next year, but it would be folly to begin a forced march out of the country without regard to the risks of renewed sectarian warfare and escalating intervention in the country by Iran and other of Iraq's neighbors. The Democratic candidate is reportedly planning a visit to Iraq in the coming weeks. That will offer an opportunity for him to lay out a new position on the war that both distinguishes him from Mr. McCain and gives him the freedom to be an effective commander in chief.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Buy-in

"Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail; without it, nothing can succeed."

—Abraham Lincoln

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



A linchpin leadership skill that determines the successful outcome of any endeavor is the ability to gain buy-in from key people. This is true whether you are the president of a major corporation, a political leader, or a parent. To gain support for your proposal, product, service, philosophy or idea, you must have the understanding, commitment, and support from those who will be impacted.

An excellent example of this is the recent Marine National Monument proposal that was presented to the CNMI by the Pew Charitable Trust Fund. Many interesting comments have been published in the last few months from ardent supporters and non-supporters.

With all the wonderful things it proposes to offer, why didn't it garner enough support? The answer to that question was given in an insightful letter to the editor by Richard Benavente Seman when he pointed out that the primary stakeholders were left in the dark from the very beginning, and had no say in the proposal's mission and objectives. He states: "The route and manner the Pew Charitable Trust Fund is going about with its proposal is a direct insult of our people and ignorance of our battered but still-alive self-governance."

He then gave some specific examples of Pew's activities that violated the "buy-in" concept: developing and drafting a proposed National Monument for the CNMI without any collaboration; deciding what is best for the CNMI without consulting anyone; delivering their proposal to the people for acceptance and support, not opposition; and ignoring the position of the government.

So what does it take to get buy-in from people? A leader must be able to communicate a message that inspires the thoughts and touches the emotions of others, and this is best accomplished through strategic stories. Napoleon Bonaparte understood this principle when he stated: "The human race is governed by its imagination." He believed that knowing how to capture and manage that imagination is the key to influence and power.

Good strategic stories trigger emotions, and act as mental software to program us to repeat the story endlessly in our minds-eye for greater impact until we take action. If you think about it, all great leaders are able to mold the beliefs and behaviors of people by promising a better future that captivates them. The U.S. was conceived on the belief of a future that promised life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mark S. Walton offers a simple formula to develop a strategic story in his book, *Generating Buy-In*. Before you start, you must determine your buy-in objective. It sounds obvious, but you must have a clear picture of the action you want others to take regarding your idea, proposal, product, or organization. Action is the bottom line of buy-in.

The first step is to establish a strategic storyline that will generate the action you want. This is the central message or theme, and its purpose is to grab attention and communicate the vision or "big picture" of a positive future in a way that lets people see and understand how it benefits them. This means you must understand their needs, wants, and goals so you can create a story that "connects the dots" between the future you desire and the future they want. It is vital that you connect with people's gut concerns.

The second step is to develop your storyline using the "rule of three." Walton states that communicating in threes has been used successfully for centuries to enhance audience reception, retention, and recall. Therefore, your storyline should be divided into three sections or steps that stress the most important ways in which your target audience's needs, wants, and goals will be fulfilled.

Each section should be supported by evidence that the assertion you are making is credible. The best supporting evidence for a story about the future is the real-life examples of others from yesterday or today.

The last step is a call to action by asking for a commitment or first step toward the action you want. If your strategic storyline has done its job, the people you address should be ready and excited about getting involved and taking action.

The best way out of a crisis or bad situation is not to dwell on the problems of the past, but to share a positive future that generates buy-in. This is accomplished by knowing what you want, creating a strategic story with three targeted sections supported by evidence that appeals to what your audience wants, and asking them for a commitment to take action.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The need to start a 'People's Movement'

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The people of the CNMI have been going through a very difficult time for several years now. The downturn in the economy and the power crisis are two of the reasons for the hardship we all are going through. But the fundamental reason for the situation we are in has been the lack of qualified, competent and dedicated leaders in the CNMI government. This has been the case for a long time now with the executive and legislative branches. It has also been the case with most of the department and agencies of the CNMI government. If we are to extricate ourselves from the predicament that we are in—i.e. if the CNMI is to grow, develop, prosper and improve the quality of life here--, then we have to start electing to public office those individuals who are indeed qualified to serve. We must begin electing only those candidates who are competent to lead. We could no longer afford to elect any candidate who is not dedicated to public service and who does not have the best interest of the people of the CNMI.

Thirty years ago this past Jan. 8, we began exercising self-government, for the first time, under our own constitution. Our experience in self-government over that one-generational span has very sadly been neither laudable nor noteworthy. It has been an experience that we are not proud of. Indeed, if we are to grade our overall performance in self-government, our grade for the first decade would probably be a "C-," or less than average. For the second ten years of self-government, our leadership performance remained about the same, a less than average grade of "C-." For our third decade of self-government, our self-government grade went down to a "D-." Some of us would actually give our government leaders, for the last ten years, a failing grade of "F."

We have been, for at least six years now, either on the verge of failing and, at times, have actually been failing in our job at self-governance. And this should be *a cause for alarm* to all of us. For if our leaders in government fail us, essential public services would stop. Essential public services, as we have already seen, have been drastically cut back for at least six years now. Public service would indeed stop if the CNMI government becomes bankrupt or otherwise becomes financially insolvent. Indeed, we are now teetering on the edge of this economic precipice.

The telltale signs are all around us. The people have been, justifiably so, extremely frustrated and angry with the very dismal performance of our leaders in government. Our power system, as we now all know, has basically failed. Our laws have been unstable and unpredictable for many years now. Our government has no real goal or vision for the future of the CNMI. Essential public services—public education, public health and public safety—have been greatly compromised for at least six years now because of the decline in government revenue.

To make matters worse, there has been so much infighting among our leaders, both elected and appointed. There has been a lot of political grandstanding and gamesmanship going on in government. Our leaders, it seems, are always trying their best to outdo one another, without regard to the lasting impact their actions have on the general public. The end result of all these political "shenanigans" is that the welfare and well-being of the people keep getting worse and worse.

This year—2008—is probably the lowest point in CNMI self-government, judging from the government's state of disarray. Our performance at self-government has been going backwards, instead of moving forward. Nothing positive has been happening in the CNMI for several years now. For example, most legislative matters have come to a standstill, because the two houses have literally been not on speaking terms. And next year—a general election year—the situation would predictably become worse. The political blame game will be played out by the candidates for public office with relish and gusto; again, while the people continue to suffer.

This year—2008—is probably the lowest point in CNMI self-government, judging from the government's state of disarray. Our performance at self-government has been going backwards, instead of moving forward. Nothing positive has been happening in the CNMI for several years now.

So are the people of the Commonwealth going to let the same old politics prevail once more, in 2009? Are we going to let the same old political back-scratching continue? Are we going to let the political parties and partisan interests prevail once again over the interest of the people of the CNMI? If the voters of the CNMI don't do anything about the extremely critical matter of leadership in our government, then we really have no one to blame but ourselves. If the same situation prevails, "business as usual" would continue in the CNMI; and we the people would continue to be a part of the problem, for continuing to elect the same politicians to public office.

By now, it should be quite clear to all of us that none of the political parties or partisan groups has ever really made the *public interest* their priority. It has always been the party interest first; and the public interest last. The public is not even second or third. And this unhealthy political practice has got to stop. But in order for such practice to stop, the people have to say "No more." *No mas*. In order for this to happen, the people of the CNMI have to get actively involved. The people of the CNMI should seriously consider organizing a "people's movement" for competent leadership in government. A possible slogan for this movement could be "The People Come First."

Once a people's movement is organized and established, the people would be able to endorse and support only those candidates whom they find to be qualified, competent, and have the public interest as their first and only priority. *If a people's movement gets started and becomes influential, the people would play a pivotal role in determining which candidates are actually elected to office.* The movement would be able to select and elect candidates that are qualified and competent, and have the public interest as their sole priority. The people would be the "political kingpin," not the person or persons who are "bankrolling" the political candidates for public office.

This is, of course, a suggestion that is being made to the people of the CNMI for the next general election and afterwards. If the people of the CNMI feel that a "people's movement" should be organized and launched, then those interested in starting such movement should meet and organize it within the next month or so.

The future of the Commonwealth is too important to leave to the politicians, the political parties and their political interests. As we know, the majority of politicians are motivated and dictated largely by their political parties and their own self-interest. We cannot continue accepting "as a given" the slates of candidates that the political parties "dish out" to us every general election, *without any real choice*. The people have to start participating and being actively involved in the selection and election of candidates for public office.

Should a "people's movement," therefore, be considered and organized? It is really up to the people of the CNMI. I believe it is high-time that a non-partisan movement gets established, with its first and only priority being the best interest of the people of the CNMI. The people need to "take the government back," so that the government's first priority would be us—the people; not the political parties and their party stalwarts and supporters.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

A plug for energy independence

By GAL LUFT
Special to The Washington Post



Luft is executive director of the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security and co-founder of the Set America Free Coalition, a bipartisan alliance of groups promoting U.S. energy independence. Author's e-mail: luft@iags.org

When the founding fathers declared our independence, they could not have imagined that, 232 years later, the United States would be so spectacularly dependent on foreign countries. It would be roughly eight more decades before oil gushed from a well in Titusville, Pa., marking the beginning of the global oil economy; it took eight decades more for the United States to become a net oil importer. But the republic's disastrous dependence on foreign oil has increased by leaps and bounds ever since.

In 1973, when OPEC imposed its oil embargo, U.S. oil imports composed 30 percent of our needs; today, they make up more than 60 percent, with a growing proportion of that crude coming from the world's least stable regions. At around $145 a barrel, the United States, by my calculations, will spend more on imported oil this year than it will spend on its own defense budget, and much of that money will flow into the coffers of those who wish us ill.

Since oil dependence is so unappealing, you'd think that energy independence would be an easy sell, especially on this Fourth of July weekend. But in fact, very few policy ideas have been so ridiculed. A 2007 report by the National Petroleum Council, a privately funded group that offers advice from the oil and gas industries to the federal government, calls energy independence "unrealistic"; a recent book, "Gusher of Lies," by Robert Bryce, a former fellow at a think tank funded in part by energy interests, described energy independence as a "dangerous delusion"; and a 2006 Council on Foreign Relations task force went so far as to accuse those promoting energy independence of "doing the nation a disservice by focusing on a goal that is unachievable over the foreseeable future."

Ignore them. Energy independence does not mean that the United States must be entirely self-sufficient. It simply means reducing the role of oil in world politics—turning it from a strategic commodity into merely another thing to sell.

Is energy independence a pipe dream? Hardly. In the electricity sector, the mission has already been accomplished. Remember President Jimmy Carter in his cardigan during the oil crises of the 1970s, urging Americans to save electricity? It took us just one decade to wean the electricity sector from oil. Today, only 2 percent of U.S. electricity comes from oil, according to the Energy Department. Could we do something similar with transportation, where American cars and trucks still gulp oil-based fuel greedily? At least four very different countries—dictatorships and democracies alike—are already making serious headway toward that goal. It's past time to pay attention to their example.

The first country, surprisingly enough, is Iran. The Islamic republic has lots of crude but little capacity to refine it, leaving Tehran heavily dependent on gasoline imports. The country's blustery president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is fully aware that this is Iran's Achilles' heel and worries that a comprehensive gasoline embargo could cause enough social unrest to undermine his regime.

So Ahmadinejad has launched an energy-independence program designed to shift Iran's transportation system from gasoline to natural gas, which Iran has plenty of. "If we can change our automobiles' fuel from gasoline to (natural) gas during the next three-four years," he said last July, "we won't need gasoline anymore." His plan includes a mandate for domestic automakers to make "dual-fuel" cars that can run on both gasoline and natural gas, a crash program to convert used vehicles to run on natural gas and a program to convert Iranian gas stations to serve both kinds of fuel. According to the International Association of Natural Gas Vehicles, more than 100 conversion centers have been built throughout the country: Iranians can drive in with their gasoline-only cars, pay a subsidized fee equivalent to $50 and collect their newly dual-fueled cars several hours later. Ahmadinejad's plan, which has been largely ignored by the West, means that within five years or so, Iran could be virtually immune to international sanctions.

While Iran is moving quickly toward energy independence, Brazil is already there. It's a striking turnaround; three decades ago, the country imported 80 percent of its oil supply. But since the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the Brazilians have invested massively in their sugar-based ethanol industry and created a fleet of vehicles that can run on the resulting fuel. According to the Sugar Cane Industry Union (Unica), 90 percent of the new cars sold this year in Brazil will be flexible-fuel vehicles that cost an extra $100 to make but can run on any combination of gasoline and ethanol.

Lest anyone think that can't be done in the United States, many of those new cars are made by General Motors and Ford. All it really takes to turn a regular car into a flex-fuel one is a fuel sensor and a corrosion-resistant fuel line.

Discovering how to make hydrocarbons and carbohydrates happily cohabit in the same fuel tank isn't all that Brazil has done; it has also increased domestic oil production. Its efforts have not only broken the yoke of Brazil's oil dependence but also insulated the country's economy from the pain of the current spike in global oil prices. Gasoline prices have nearly doubled elsewhere since 2005, but in Brazil, they have been almost frozen. This year, more ethanol will be sold in Brazil than gasoline. Sounds pretty good, doesn't it?

Like Brazil, China has decided to replace gasoline with alterna-

See A PLUG on Page 14

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78	▲87° ▼78°

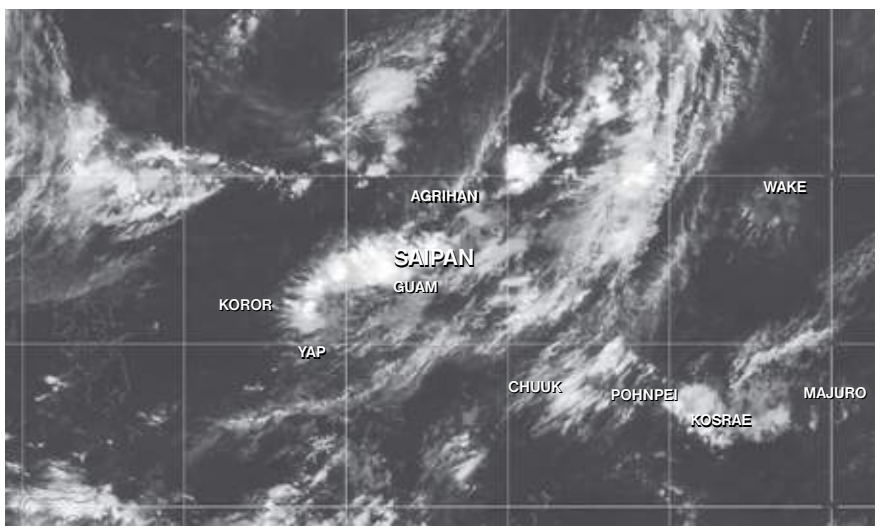
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Palau	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼72
Kosrae	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼45
Beijing	Cloudy	▲85	▼76
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲84	▼68
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Melbourne	Windy	▲53	▼42
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼79
New York	Thundershowers	▲86	▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼70
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼60
Pusan	Cloudy	▲87	▼75
Rome	Sunny	▲86	▼61
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼50
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲85	▼73
Tokyo	Showers	▲76	▼68
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak surface low centered east of Okinawa near 23N137E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Iwo to within 100 miles of a line from 22N136E to 25N145E. A monsoon trough reaches southwestward from 25N155E through a large circulation centered east-northeast of Agrihan near 20N150E then across the Marianas through 16N145E to end near 13N138E. Widespread rain, numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over a large area that lies east of the Mariana Islands and is within 75 miles of a line extending northeastward from 9N143E to 12N147E and within 225 miles of a line extending northeastward from 15N148E to 25N158E. Converging southerly winds south of the trough axis are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk within 75 miles of a line running northeastward from EQ141E to 4N145E. A low-level trough arcs northward from 2N160E to 10N157E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line reaching northwestward from 2N162E to 10N157E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers over Kosrae and Majuro between 6N and 9N from 163E to 172E and within 100 miles of a line stretching eastward from 3N175E to 3N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
12:55AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:55AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
1:38PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:09PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:53AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:54AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:54AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:54AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:12PM	
Friday	1:01PM	12:05AM
Saturday	1:51PM	12:43AM
Sunday	2:42PM	1:23AM
Monday	3:35PM	2:07AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 4, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:40am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:25am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letters to the Editor

The CUC conundrum's resolution

The conundrum or challenges we face with CUC are a direct dichotomy between the people, the Legislature and the administration. The people are caught behind the eight ball because the ones they elected to represent them haven't gotten their act together on CUC and, more importantly, I don't think they collectively know what to do. The Legislature is stuck behind an administration that has taken us nowhere fast and we are experiencing worse conditions with CUC than we did with the previous administration. Finally, the administration doesn't know whether to ask for a bailout of our economy from the feds by declaring an economic disaster or to fight federalization—thus we are in this situation today.

I was referring to the entire CNMI when I said the Governor needs to declare an economic disaster, given the catastrophic economic forces and conditions we have faced in the last two years. But still no disaster declaration and we are left shouldering the disaster because of the stance of the administration that has only resulted in increases in everything. I just wonder when our Legislature will wake up and realize they need to take control of the situation by overriding the Governor and declaring an economic disaster with a resolution that has teeth, for federal assistance and relief efforts to begin. Relief efforts are always immediate, which is what we need—immediate financial help.

The Legislature needs to disown the lawsuit and the administration for their poor leadership in the crisis we are facing. The Bitter Times joke has become a genuine reality for the people. Our only hope for immediate relief is for our Legislature to take a stance to save the people and let the administration stand on it own. It's time for the Legislature to commit a "mutiny" and I mean that literally because it is clear the administration is imploding from its own failures. Don't worry about the administration because it is obvious even to the administration that the people will deal with the administration in the voting booth. We are sailing in the wrong direction with a frivolous lawsuit for our sail and we are headed straight to the Depression Trench. The administration hasn't sent out an SOS, the boat is sinking fast and we need to find land quick, fast, and in a hurry.

But there is one thing CUC can do right now to help the people. CUC can change the old policy of only three extensions per year for paying your bill because that policy was implemented when times and our money situation was very different. As long as a person meets the extension date, he or she should be able to get as many extensions as necessary and even carry over an established dollar amount just so they can keep their power on. This outdated policy has only served to "cut" services and revenue because people are just letting the bill go and are moving back to their family. Worse, they put the bill in another name to never pay the bill and some are just leaving for good. CUC is not even trying to help the people with payments and they can do better.

Well I wrote this letter by request from people who are suffering and I can only hope our Legislature will now listen to my suggestion, given the fact that everyone who voted for them are in the dark with them and we are all in the same boat and everybody knows we are sinking. So to all those people asking me to write, it's time for you to ask our Legislature what they are going to do. It is the Legislature's job to provide the necessary checks on the executive office. It is the people's job to implement their own accountability check by appealing to our Legislature and paying close attention to who supports overriding the governor's decisions on CUC and dealing with the feds and then they will know who to vote for and who NOT to vote for in the next election. I have given you the solution to the conundrum we are in and if every citizen and member of the Legislature will do their part there will be better times.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Pew's proposed conservation up north

Over the last four hundred plus years, our forefathers have submitted to the arrogance and whims of our conquerors. They were fearful of the modern weaponry their conquerors had and had to resort to prayerful hope to see the perpetuation of their people.

Today, the "divide and conquer" syndrome continues to persist (again with the classic conqueror's arrogance) mindless of the need to secure the sentiments of the indigenous people on matters of substance pertaining directly to their livelihood. In brief, the new conqueror (Pew group) has a morally repulsive agenda riddled with greed, keeping their fingers crossed that eventually they could quietly claim and exploit what belongs to the indigenous people to their benefit—Pew's.

If Pew feels otherwise, then their active solicitation to turn 115,000 square miles of flora and fauna into a monument speaks volumes of its hidden interest, employing the carrot-on-a-stick approach to secure its goal. It boggles the mind that this organization even forgets that our people, through the CNMI Constitution, have ratified the conservation of islands throughout the Marianas Archipelago. Why would Pew, the latest conqueror or intruder, try to supplant the sentiments of indigenous owners of flora and fauna of possible minerals up north?

Since time immemorial, our forefathers have traversed the vast expanse of Marianas waters in order to catch big fish for local consumption and festive occasions. A study prepared by the Committee on Law of the Sea (former Congress of Micronesia) addresses how our forefathers have sailed beyond 500 miles to fish. Managaha Island was used as a pit stop to clean and dry fish before making the final journey home. It's an aspect of history that tells of our ancestors even going up north to fish for the dietary requirements of their community.

Pew's agenda is interesting in the sense that it alone feels there should be additional conservation areas up north. It does so as though flora and fauna are close to extinction, thus the need to step in right here and now. It fails to acknowledge our own vision respecting future development of fisheries and the sale of tons of expensive minerals for the maintenance of indigenous posterity. It seems oblivious to our abilities and capabilities as owners of these islands how 115,000 square miles of flora, fauna and seabed minerals could eventually be developed into sustainable economic ventures that offer stability over the fickle glamour industry. It is why we are here to guard against any further intrusion and brutal acquisition of what's ours!

Such stunning arrogance gift-wrapped in $300 million in federal funds reminds me of the book *How to Lie with Statistics*! Such stunt being peddled as though we're a bunch of ignoramus boggles the mind how these intruders view our sentiments and would go out of their way to secure their agenda even without our consent. Enough is enough!

I encourage our people against signing Pew's petition in favor or ours. It's the surest way to send home the message with finality that each of us is ready to protect what's rightfully the property of the indigenous people handed down to us by Divine Providence! Retaining what's ours up north for eventual indigenous disposition would allow for opportunities over the long term for sustainable economic foundation that goes hand in hand with the conviction and commitment for island nation building. *Si Yuus Maase yan Ghilisow!*

Candy B. Taman
Former Member, CNMI House of Representatives

Please release the stimulus checks

I'm writing to beg Finance Secretary Eloy Inos to release the remaining stimulus checks. We need our money. I don't anymore understand why the government is taking a long time to release all those pending checks. I know of one case where the check has been ready since May but until few days ago, Treasury was refusing to release it. The taxpayer was given a copy of the check but was told to wait.

I belong to the group of people who are waiting anxiously as to when we can get either a deficiency notice or a check. I've been to the Revenue and Tax last month to verify if I need to correct or submit any document. I was told to just wait for the check because their system doesn't show any deficiency. I bet there is still a good number of people who are in the same category, wondering what's happening.

Here's another reason to question. I filed my tax return in April and until now I have not received a notice or a check but my officemate who filed hers last June 17 got a deficiency notice two days ago. How do they decide who gets first? I checked the IRS website to see if they are using the last digit of SS number in the scheduling but it didn't make any sense. At least, in my case or a few others I've checked.

Sec. Inos, thank you in advance for helping us get our money.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

A PLUG

From Page 11

tive fuels. But unlike the United States and Brazil, where the favorite substitute is ethanol, China has embraced a different alcohol: methanol. Several provinces in China already blend their gasoline with methanol, a clear, colorless liquid also known as wood alcohol, and scores of methanol plants are currently under construction there. The Chinese auto industry has already begun to produce flex-fuel models that can run on methanol. Shanxi, a province in central China that produces much of the country's coal, has even issued stickers granting cars that use pure methanol free passage on the province's toll roads.

Both methanol and ethanol should be in our basket of options. True, ethanol packs more energy per gallon and is less corrosive than methanol. But methanol is cheaper and far easier to produce in bulk. While ethanol can be made only from agricultural products such as corn and sugar cane, methanol can be made from natural gas, coal, industrial garbage and even recycled carbon dioxide captured from power stations' smokestacks—an elegant way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Israel offers a fourth testament to what leadership, ingenuity and audacity can achieve. Last year, it launched an electric-car venture designed to turn Israel—which obviously has some tensions with the region's big oil producers—into an oil-free economy. Israelis will soon be able to replace their gasoline-fueled cars with battery-operated ones, which they'll plug into the hundreds of thousands of recharging points planned to be erected throughout the country. Israeli motorists, the government hopes, will be able to swap their batteries in a matter of minutes at dedicated stations or recharge them at home or at work. "Oil is the greatest problem of all time—the great polluter and promoter of terror," said Israeli President Shimon Peres, the project's political patron. "We should get rid of it."

For each of the four countries, knocking oil off its pedestal is no longer a theoretical proposition but a reality in the making. But despite the lip service our own politicians pay to the need to reduce our oil dependence, none of the solutions offered by Iran, Brazil, China and Israel is even under consideration in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Just go down the list. Natural-gas vehicles are nowhere to be seen. Brazilian sugar-cane ethanol is barred from the country by a steep 54-cent-per-gallon import tariff, courtesy of ethanol protectionists and their representatives in Congress. (No tariff is imposed on imported oil, of course.) For similar reasons, flex-fuel cars sold in the United States are certified to run only on ethanol, keeping methanol and other viable biofuels off the market—even though they are cheaper and can be made from a wealth of coal and biomass resources. The kind of electric cars deployed in Israel have never returned to U.S. showrooms since General Motors' mass crushing of its EV1—the subject of the documentary "Who Killed the Electric Car?"

It's time to get serious. Policies such as "drill more" and "drive smaller cars" all keep us running on petroleum. At best, they buy us a few more years of complacency, while ensuring a much worse dependence down the road when America's conventional oil reserves are even more depleted—whether or not we drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The hard truth is that real energy independence can be achieved only through fuel choice and competition. That competition cannot take place as long as (according to the Department of Transportation) we continue to put 16 million new cars that run only on petroleum on our roads every year, each with an average street life of 16.8 years—thereby locking ourselves into decades more of petroleum dependence.

So let's remember the old saying: When in a hole, stop digging. If every new car sold in the United States were a flex-fuel vehicle and if millions of Americans could plug in their electric cars, gasoline would be facing fierce competition at the pump and the socket. Moreover, our money would have migrated from Exxon to Pepco, from the Middle East to the Midwest—as well as to scores of poor, biomass-producing countries in Africa, Latin America and South Asia, including the few countries that don't yet hate our guts. This, and no other, is the road to independence.

Business

Oil slides in 2nd day, losing over $5

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil tumbled more than $5 a barrel Tuesday in its second big drop this week, hurling crude back to levels not seen since June 26 as traders wary about the health of the global economy cashed in gains from oil's recent rally.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery fell $5.33 to settle at $136.04, after earlier slumping as low as $135.14. The decline followed a $3.92 slide on Monday, bringing oil's two-day drop to more than $9.

The market's bearish turn this week erases, at least for the time being, the effect of a rally that pushed prices past $145 in a string of record-setting sessions before the Fourth of July.

Analysts attributed much of the recent sell-off to profit-taking, saying traders were cashing in on the previous week's gains. A stronger dollar also helped keep prices lower by discouraging investors from pumping more money into commodities.

At the same time, concerns about global oil supply disruptions subsided and fears that the economic slowdown is spreading moved to the forefront.



"Sagging global equities, which are tipping a lack of confidence in economic growth in both developed and emerging economies, helped trigger the retreat in the energy markets," Addison Armstrong, director of market research at Tradition Energy, said in a research note.

Still, analysts warned the pullback could be fleeting.

"For the time being it's what we call corrective. ... It's a profit-taking pullback that could still be followed by fresh highs down the road," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates.

Ritterbusch said Tuesday's decline may have gained added momentum when computer models used by large investment funds automatically sold oil contracts once prices fell to a pre-set threshold.

"A significant part of it's technical," he said of the day's trading. "A lot of these funds don't watch supply and demand fundamentals."

A decline in oil prices wouldn't translate into relief at the gas pump for some time. Retail gasoline prices in the U.S. held steady at a record $4.108 a gallon, according to AAA auto club, the Oil Price Information Service and Wright Express. Diesel continued to advance, rising more than half a penny to a record $4.807 a gallon.

Fed to curb shady home-lending practices

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve will issue new rules next week aimed at protecting future homebuyers from dubious lending practices, its most sweeping response to a housing crisis that has propelled foreclosures to record highs.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke spoke of the much-awaited rules in a broader speech Tuesday about the challenges confronting policymakers in trying to stabilize a shaky U.S. financial system. To that end, Bernanke said the Fed may give squeezed Wall Street firms more time to tap the central bank's emergency loan program.

To prevent a repeat of the current mortgage mess, Bernanke said the Fed will adopt rules cracking down on a range of shady lending practices that have burned many of the nation's riskiest "subprime" borrowers - those with spotty credit or low incomes - who were hardest hit by the housing and credit debacles.

The plan, which will be voted on at a Fed board meeting on Monday, would apply to new loans made by thousands of lenders of all types, including banks and brokers.

Under the proposal unveiled last December, the rules would restrict lenders from penalizing risky borrowers who pay loans off early, require lenders to make sure these borrowers set aside money to pay for taxes and insurance and bar lenders from making loans without proof of a borrower's income. It also would prohibit lenders from engaging in a pattern or practice of lending without considering a borrower's ability to repay a home loan from sources other than the home's value.

Dow ends up 152 on decline in oil

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street finished sharply higher Tuesday as oil prices dropped for the second straight day and investors were encouraged by the possibility of more help for the ailing financial system. The Dow Jones industrials gained more than 150 points, and all the major indexes were up more than 1 percent.

Speeches by Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Jamie Dimon gave the market some reassurance about the financial sector.

The Dow rose 152.25, or 1.36 percent, to 11,383.21, after moving in and out of positive territory. It was the biggest gain for the blue chips since June 13.

The advance left the Dow down 19.6 percent from its October high—just shy of the 20 percent threshold that signals a bear market.

Broader stock indicators rose as well. The S&P 500 rose 21.39, or 1.71 percent, to 1,273.70, while the Nasdaq composite index rose 51.10, or 2.28 percent, to 2,294.42.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 24.46, or 3.72 percent, to 682.72.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by a 2 to 1 basis on the New York Stock Exchange, where consolidated volume came to 5.92 billion shares compared with 5.21 billion shares Monday.

Stock markets overseas slid Tuesday before Wall Street's turnaround. Japan's Nikkei stock average finished down 2.45 percent, Britain's FTSE 100 fell 1.31 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 1.43 percent and France's CAC-40 fell 1.54 percent.



AP

Left to right, Estee Lauder spokesmodel Carolyn Murphy, Estee Lauder chairman of the board Leonard Lauder, spokesmodel Hilary Rhoda, and spokesmodel Elizabeth Hurley applaud before the ringing of the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange, Tuesday, July 8, 2008 in New York.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

SEC finds credit raters had conflicts of interest

WASHINGTON (AP)—The three main credit-rating agencies failed to rein in conflicts of interest in giving high ratings to risky securities backed by subprime mortgages that later collapsed, federal regulators said Tuesday. The results of the yearlong review by the Securities and Exchange Commission illuminate the role of Wall Street's credit rating industry in the turmoil that has gripped the financial markets in recent months. The three agencies that dominate the industry - Standard & Poor's, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch Ratings - have been widely criticized for failing to identify risks in investments tied to high-risk subprime mortgages. The rating agencies "sometimes deviated from their own models and their own procedures," SEC Chairman Christopher Cox said at a news conference.

Anheuser-Busch calls InBev takeover bid illegal

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Anheuser-Busch claims that Belgian brewer InBev's unsolicited takeover bid isn't just bad for the bottom line, but is an "illegal scheme" that threatens to defraud Anheuser-Busch shareholders if a federal judge doesn't step in. Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. made the claim in a lawsuit filed late Monday, just hours after InBev SA filed its own motion seeking to oust Anheuser-Busch's board of directors. The lawsuit, filed in St. Louis federal court, claims that InBev is deceiving Anheuser-Busch shareholders about the company's $46 billion takeover bid by concealing a number of facts. The suit says InBev doesn't have the solid financing to underwrite the deal, as the company claims, and that it has not disclosed that it operates a brewery in Cuba, which could complicate its efforts to operate in the United States.

Pending home sales fall 4.7 percent

WASHINGTON (AP)—A measurement of pending home sales fell to the third-lowest reading on record in May as the housing market's recovery continued to prove elusive. The National Association of Realtors' seasonally adjusted index of pending sales for existing homes fell 4.7 percent to 84.7 from an upwardly revised April reading of 88.9. The index was 14 percent below year-ago levels. Home sales are considered pending when the seller has accepted an offer, but the deal has not yet closed. Typically there is a one- to two-month lag before a sale is completed.

Siemens cutting 17K jobs worldwide to cut costs

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP)—Industrial conglomerate Siemens AG said Tuesday it will cut 16,750 jobs, or 4.2 percent of its global work force, to streamline operations and slice nearly $2 billion in costs in the face of a slowing economy. The Munich-based maker of products ranging from light bulbs and medical equipment to high-speed trains and power turbines said the cuts would include 12,600 administrative jobs as well as another 4,150 positions involving restructuring projects at its various units. The company has a worldwide work force of approximately 400,000 people. Siemens said it will consolidate its businesses from the current 1,800 separate legal entities to fewer than 1,000 and take its 70 regional companies and transform them into 20 regional clusters. Siemens said the cuts were being made in an effort to reduce total costs by 1.2 billion euros ($1.8 billion) by 2010.

Stock Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,089.400 Down 67.000 (-1.15%)
HONG KONG	21,599.19 Up 378.38 (+1.78%)
JAKARTA	2,281.948 Up 2.975 (+0.13%)
TOKYO	13,052.13 Up 19.03 (+0.15%)
K. LUMPUR	1,121.25 Down 6.01 (-0.53%)
MANILA	2,481.53 Up 30.98 (+1.26%)
SINGAPORE	2,904.21 Down 17.59 (-0.61%)
SEOUL	1,519.38 Down 14.09 (-0.92%)
BANGKOK	728.52 Up 6.02 (+0.83%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	11,384.21 +152.25
NASDAQ	2,294.44 0.00
S&P	1,273.70 0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0524
British Pound	0.5073
Canadian Dollar	1.0171
Chinese Renmbi	6.8568
Euro	0.6371
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8021
Indian Rupee	43.147
Indonesian Rupiah	9185.5
Japanese Yen	107.38
Malaysian Ringgit	3.251
New Zealand Dollar	1.3279
Philippine Peso	45.705
Singapore Dollar	1.3637
South Korean Won	1005.775
Swiss Franc	1.0312
Taiwan Dollar	30.396
Thailand Baht	33.66

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Panel calls for new war powers legislation

WASHINGTON (AP)—The next time the president goes to war, Congress should be consulted and vote on whether it agrees, according to a bipartisan study group chaired by former secretaries of state James Baker III and Warren Christopher.

In a report released Tuesday, the panel says the current law governing the nation's war powers has failed to promote cooperation between the executive and legislative branches. It says the 1973 resolution should be repealed and replaced with new legislation that would require the president to inform Congress of any plans to engage in "significant armed conflict," or non-covert operations lasting longer than a week.

ON THE NET

The Miller Center:
http://www.millercenter.org/warpowers

In turn, Congress would act within 30 days, either approving or disapproving the action.

Baker, who served as secretary of s`tate in the first Bush administration and co-chaired the 2006 Iraq Study Group, said the proposal isn't intended to resolve constitutional disputes between the White House and Congress on who should decide whether the nation fights.

"What we aim to do with this statute is to create a process that will encourage the two branches to cooperate and consult in a way that is both practical and true to the spirit of the Constitution," Baker said in a statement.

A new joint House and Senate committee would be established to review the president's justification for war. To do so, the committee would be granted access to highly classified information.

The panel has briefed the presidential campaigns of Barack Obama and John McCain, as well as congressional leadership.

Spokesman Tommy Vietor said Obama commends the panel "for advocating that the president consult Congress more closely on issues of critical national importance like the use of military force."

As some flee fires, others return for a time



Burned trees surround the wreckage of a home destroyed by fire near Concow Road Tuesday, July 8, 2008 in Rural Butte County. AP

BIG SUR, Calif. (AP)—Firefighters pushed back a blaze threatening this small coastal community just enough to allow hundreds of people to check on their homes Tuesday as a separate fire 300 miles north forced residents of other towns to evacuate.

Fire crews have been straining to cover 330 active California wildfires, many of which were ignited by a lightning storm more than two weeks ago. A heat wave forecast to linger in much of the state until the weekend was making the job all the more difficult.

Winds as high as 30 mph fanned a blaze northeast of Sacramento in Butte County, where firefighters went door to door overnight to evacuate 800 to 1,000 residents from the towns of Concow and Yankee Hill. Nearby Paradise, where a fire destroyed 74 homes last month, was also ordered evacuated, along with Ono, a rural town about 170 miles north of Sacramento.

"Now you're in a hell of a firefight," said Todd Simmons, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Five structures have been destroyed, and the complex of fires in Butte County was about 55 percent contained.

At least 23 homes and 25 other structures have been destroyed to the south in the Big Sur area, where flames have marched over more than 125 square miles of forest land since June 21.

Although that fire is far from controlled—the rugged terrain has kept containment at 18 percent into the fire's third week—authorities lifted the mandatory evacuation order issued for 25 miles of the 31-mile stretch along the Pacific Coast Highway that had been closed.

Fringe autism treatment could get federal study

CHICAGO (AP)—Pressured by desperate parents, government researchers are pushing to test an unproven treatment on autistic children, a move some scientists see as an unethical experiment in voodoo medicine.

The treatment removes heavy metals from the body and is based on the fringe theory that mercury in vaccines triggers autism—a theory never proved and rejected by mainstream science. Mercury hasn't been in childhood vaccines since 2001, except for certain flu shots.

But many parents of autistic children are believers, and the head of the National Institute of Mental Health supports testing it on children provided the tests are safe.

"So many moms have said, `It's saved my kids,'" institute director Dr. Thomas Insel said.

For now, the proposed study, not widely known outside the community of autism research and advocacy groups, has been put on hold because of safety concerns, Insel told The Associated Press.

FTC eyes backing off nicotine guide

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Trade Commission said Tuesday that it no longer considers reliable a test for tar and nicotine used for more than 40 years and touted by the tobacco industry in marketing "light" and "low-tar" cigarettes.

The FTC said it may rescind its guidance on tar and nicotine yields that is based on that test. The commission said if the guidance is withdrawn, advertisers should no longer use terms suggesting FTC endorsement or approval of any specific test method.

The test, known as the Cambridge Filter Method, is a machine-based test that smokes cigarettes according to a standard procedure and is sometimes referred to as "the FTC method." The FTC issued its guidance in 1966 at a time when most public health officials believed reducing the amount of tar produced by a cigarette could reduce a smoker's risk of lung cancer. The commission believed that giving consumers uniform information about tar and nicotine yields of cigarettes would help them make informed decisions about the cigarettes they smoked.

ACROSS THE NATION

Hurricane Bertha weakens to Cat. 1 storm

MIAMI (AP)—Forecasters say Hurricane Bertha has weakened to a Category 1 storm. As of 11 p.m. EDT Tuesday, the center of the storm was about 580 miles northeast of the northern Leeward Islands and about 840 miles southeast of Bermuda. Maximum sustained winds decreased to 80 mph with some higher gusting. The storm is expected to continue weakening over the next couple of days. The Atlantic season's first hurricane is headed to the northwest at about 12 mph. Bertha is expected to continue heading toward Bermuda. Forecasters urged people on the island to continue monitoring the storm's progress.

McCain, Obama pitch plans to Hispanics

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican John McCain and Democrat Barack Obama sought Tuesday to send the same message to a critical constituency: They understand that Hispanics share the same economic concerns as other Americans - and they will help the whole country prosper. It was the second time in as many weeks the presidential candidates directly appealed to a Hispanic group. Appearances before a third were on tap for next week, underscoring the fierce fight for these fickle voters. The rivals were primarily focused on making the case that he - not his opponent - could best lead the country out of economic straits and help the middle class achieve prosperity.

No charges planned in death of ignored LA patient

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No criminal charges will be filed against medical staff at a troubled inner-city hospital over the death of a homeless woman who writhed in pain on the emergency room floor for nearly an hour, a county prosecutor concluded Tuesday. A nurse at Martin Luther King Jr.-Harbor Hospital was not criminally negligent despite refusing to examine Edith Rodriguez - who was kneeling and screaming in pain with a perforated bowel - and telling her to get off the floor, according to the report by Deputy District Attorney Susan Schwartz. "Prompt intervention would not have saved her life," Schwartz wrote in the report to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department about the May 2007 death.

Police ID remains as software programmer's wife

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Investigators confirmed Tuesday that a body a prominent software engineer led them to is, in fact, that of the estranged wife he was about to be sentenced for killing, pulling closer together the final pieces of a murder mystery. Hans Reiser was convicted in April of first-degree murder even though Nina Reiser's body had not been found. Reiser, 44, showed police the body in exchange for the possibility of a lighter sentence, prosecutor Paul Hora said. Dental records, jewelry and clothing helped confirm the woman's identity, police said. The cause of her death is still being investigated, they said, declining to give many specifics of what they found when Reiser led them to the body Monday.

Drugs suspected in treats given to Texas police

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—A teenager is suspected of delivering baskets of drug-laced treats to about a dozen police departments in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, according to police who charged him Tuesday with LSD possession. At least three officers have gotten sick. The 18-year-old man was arrested after taking cookies to the Lake Worth police station, said Brett McGuire, the suburb's police chief. Officers there had been tipped off that someone was falsely claiming to deliver treats on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. "Our officers took a good whiff and thought they smelled like marijuana," McGuire said, adding that preliminary tests instead detected traces of LSD. Christian Phillips was taken into custody and later charged with possession of the powerful hallucinogen.

Mount Shasta glaciers growing, despite warming

MOUNT SHASTA, Calif. (AP) -- Global warming is shrinking glaciers all over the world, but the seven tongues of ice creeping down Mount Shasta's flanks are a rare exception: They are the only long-established glaciers in the lower 48 states that are growing. Reaching more than 14,000 feet above sea level, Mount Shasta is one of the state's tallest peaks, dominating the landscape of high plains and conifer forests in far Northern California. Nearby Indian tribes referred to its glaciers as the footsteps made by the creator when he descended to Earth. Hikers flock to Shasta every summer to scale them.

Asia

G-8 backs UN climate pact by 2009

TOYAKO, Japan (AP) -- A joint gathering of major developed and developing nations on Wednesday agreed that climate change was "one of the great global challenges of our time" and pledged to back a United Nations effort to conclude new climate pact by 2009. The major economies said they supported longterm and midterm goals for greenhouse-gas reductions, but endorsed no targets.

It came a day after the Group of Eight major industrial democracies set a goal of halving heat-trapping emissions that contribute to global warming by 2050.

The U.S.-led, 17-member group issued a final statement on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit in northern Japan.

"We support a shared vision for long-term cooperative action, including a long-term global goal for emission reductions, that assures growth, prosperity, and other aspects of sustainable development," the expanded group said.

But the developing nations invited to the gathering were not ready to go as far as supporting the 50 percent reduction by 2050.

Jim Connaughton, chairman of President Bush's Council of Environmental Quality, said that "several" of the emerging economies were willing to support the target, but not enough to allow that language to be put in the declaration. He did not say which nations.

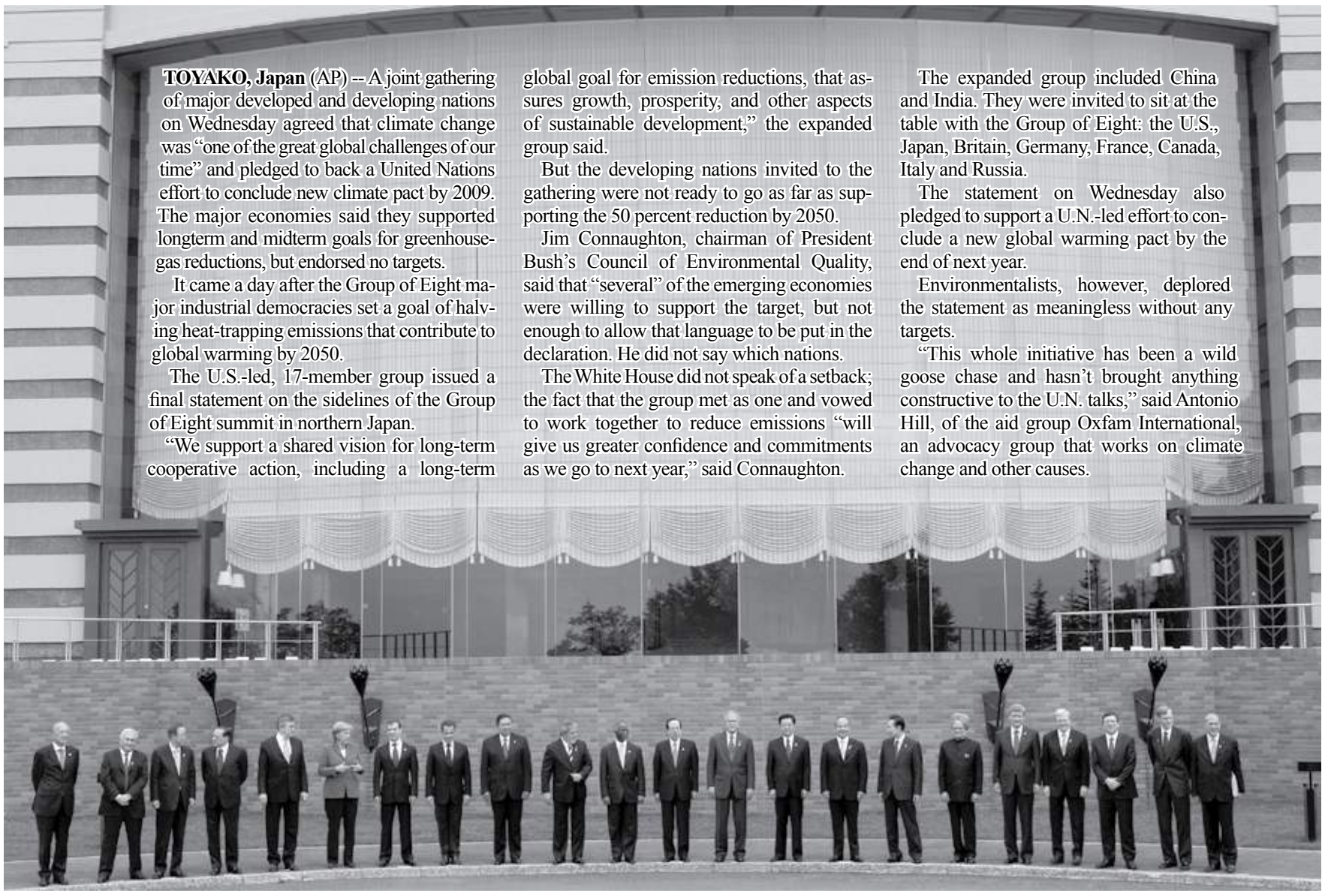
The White House did not speak of a setback; the fact that the group met as one and vowed to work together to reduce emissions "will give us greater confidence and commitments as we go to next year," said Connaughton.

The expanded group included China and India. They were invited to sit at the table with the Group of Eight: the U.S., Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Canada, Italy and Russia.

The statement on Wednesday also pledged to support a U.N.-led effort to conclude a new global warming pact by the end of next year.

Environmentalists, however, deplored the statement as meaningless without any targets.

"This whole initiative has been a wild goose chase and hasn't brought anything constructive to the U.N. talks," said Antonio Hill, of the aid group Oxfam International, an advocacy group that works on climate change and other causes.



AP

G8 leaders and Major Economic outreach leaders pose for a group photo at the G8 summit, Wednesday, July 9, 2008 in the lakeside resort of Toyako on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido.

'Make ransom payment to Abu Sayyaf a crime'

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Paying ransom to radical Islamic groups such as the Abu Sayyaf, which survives largely due to funds from kidnappings and other acts of banditry, should be declared a crime to cut off a key terrorist lifeline, a police official said Tuesday.

The government should also proscribe the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf and similar groups as terrorist organizations under the country's anti-terrorism law to make any financial support to them a criminal act, police Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Mendoza said.

Kidnappings for ransom and extortion, along with funds from foreign terrorist allies have allowed the Abu Sayyaf to survive and finance deadly bomb attacks and other atrocities for years.

Between 1992 and last year, Abu Sayyaf collected an estimated US$31 million (1.4 billion pesos) from ransom payments and an unspecified amount from extortion, said Mendoza, a prominent officer who has made extensive studies on al-Qaida-linked militants in the Philippines.

"Ransom payment must be criminalized and penalized to deter similar actions in the future," Mendoza told a Manila conference on countering terror financing.

China shushes parents about earthquake

WUFU, China (AP)—Angry parents whose children were crushed to death in schools that collapsed in China's mighty earthquake are no longer being allowed to march, wave banners and vent their rage in public.

Officials are now using a variety of tactics—threats, money, promises of justice, police muscle - to intimidate, appease or hush up the grieving mothers and fathers who believe that nearly 7,000 classrooms crumbled so easily because corrupt and incompetent officials didn't build them properly.

■ ■ ■

RUSUTSU, Japan (AP)—French President Nicolas Sarkozy will attend the opening of the Beijing Olympics next month, his office said Wednesday, putting an end to his threat to boycott the event over China's treatment of Tibet.

Sarkozy informed Chinese President Hu Jintao of his decision during talks on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit of industrialized powers in Japan, his office said.

"The chief of state stressed the Olympic values of peace, friendship and brotherhood, and wished great success to the Beijing Olympic Games," the statement said, adding that Sarkozy "confirmed his intention" to attend the Aug. 8 ceremony.

■ ■ ■

Two months after the quake, seething anger runs through the town of Wufu, with its green rice fields and concrete farm houses. Wufu became a hotbed of quake protests after the town's Fuxin No. 2 Primary School caved in, killing 127 students.

"Police from Deyang came to our town and warned us not to gather," said Pi Kaijian, a 43-year-old farmer who wore pointy Italian-style loafers and polyester pants rolled up past his calves as he endured the afternoon heat in the courtyard of his house.

"The police met with our parent leaders and said if we gathered, it would be a criminal act and we'd be arrested," said the farmer, whose 11-year-old son died in the school.

In the weeks after the quake, parents in Wufu vented their rage over buildings they say were shoddily constructed by grabbing pictures of their dead children and marching to the government headquarters in Deyang, the nearest big city.

Such protests were tolerated for a time after the 7.9-magnitude quake, but then came the police warnings to stay off the streets.

After winning global praise for acting like an open society and allowing the parents to protest after the disaster, China is reverting to the tactics of a communist police state ready to crush any dissent.

The Deyang police spokesman, who declined to give his name, doubted Pi's account. "This probably isn't true," he told The Associated Press before declining to answer more questions.

The deputy director of the propaganda office of the Deyang police said he was unaware of the alleged threats. "We police haven't been in touch with those parents. We have allowed them to raise their case," the official, who would only give his surname, Luo, told The Associated Press before hanging up the phone after refusing to say more.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Chinese police probe death of Canadian model

SHANGHAI, China (AP)—A young Canadian model was found dead in her Shanghai apartment building this week, and police said Wednesday they suspect she was murdered. An official in the news department of Shanghai's Public Security Bureau said that police got an emergency call early Monday about the death of Diana O'Brien. Police said she was 23, though media reports in Canada have said she was 22. The official, who gave only her family name, Fang, gave no further details on O'Brien's death. Police said O'Brien entered China on June 24.

Russian food aid arrives in North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A shipment of Russian food aid arrived this week in North Korea, the country's official news agency reported Wednesday. The North's official Korean Central News Agency said the aid arrived Monday via train to the northwestern city of Sinuiju. There were no details on the amount of food sent, which KCNA said was to be delivered through the World Food Program. The food "is a token of the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries and an encouragement to the Korean people," KCNA aid. Russia is one of the North's allies and a member of six-nation disarmament talks

Ex-Khmer Rouge minister loses appeal

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—A former female minister of the Khmer Rouge regime lost her appeal Wednesday for release from pre-trial detention by Cambodia's genocide tribunal where she is being held on charges of crimes against humanity. In their ruling, judges of the U.N.-assisted tribunal's pretrial chamber upheld the current detention of 76-year-old Ieng Thirith, who served as the social affairs minister during the rule of the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s. The "detention remains a necessary measure" for Ieng Thirith, said Prak Kimsan, the chairman of the five-judge panel, adding that her appeal was dismissed. He said investigating judges properly exercised their discretion in ordering Ieng Thirith detained in November.

2 soldiers killed in separate Afghan blasts

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Two soldiers were killed and seven others injured Tuesday in two separate roadside bomb blasts in Afghanistan, officials said. According to NATO, one solder was killed and four others wounded by a roadside bomb while on patrol in the eastern province of Kunar. It did not release the nationality of the dead soldier. Most of the foreign troops in the area are American. In a separate announcement, Australian officials said one of their soldiers was killed by a roadside bomb while on patrol Tuesday in Uruzgan province. Signaler Sean McCarthy, 25, was the sixth Australian soldier to die in Afghanistan, said Marshal Angus Houston, a defense official. Three other soldiers were injured in the blast, he said.

Afghans blame 'foreign agency' for Kabul bombing

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghanistan blamed a foreign intelligence agency Tuesday for the bombing of the Indian Embassy in Kabul, making a veiled but clear reference to its eastern neighbor, Pakistan. The accusation came as the commander of the NATO military mission in Afghanistan, U.S. Army Gen. David D. McKiernan, said increased Afghan violence is due in part to a porous border that allows insurgents to resupply in Pakistan and cross freely into Afghanistan. President Hamid Karzai's spokesman said Afghan officials have evidence showing foreigners were behind Monday's suicide bombing at the embassy that killed 41 people, the deadliest attack in the capital since 2001. He did not provide any specifics.

World

US chief: Iraq needs time to stabilize

COMBAT OUTPOST RABIY, Iraq (AP)—Even in the chin-high piles of roadside rubble, the crumbled cinder-block and the eerily empty streets of this neighborhood in western Mosul, America's top military officer sees hope. But he also sees peril and an urgent need to get the economy going - jobs, services, some semblance of regular life.

"The security is there, it's much better, it's going to continue to evolve," Adm. Mike Mullen said Tuesday in an Associated Press interview after a walking tour of this recent combat zone. But if local political reform falters "or the economy doesn't get going—and here the two are linked—then I'm not sure that security makes that much difference."

■ ■ ■

BAGHDAD (AP) -- Iraqi police say a bomb in Fallujah has killed three police and one civilian.

A police official says 15 people also are injured after Wednesday morning's blast outside a bank in the one-time Sunni insurgent stronghold west of Baghdad. The injured includes an Iraqi television cameraman.

Police and a crowd gathered in the area after an explosion at 6:30 a.m. A second blast caused the casualties.

■ ■ ■

Indeed, that story of Mosul is, in many respects, the story of Iraq: Will combat successes - gained at enormous cost in U.S. and Iraqi blood and billions in U.S. taxpayer dollars - lead to lasting stability?

Mullen, the chair man of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Iraqis must do here what they have inched toward accomplishing elsewhere in the country: somehow accommodating their ethnic and sectarian differences and getting the economy moving again.

Elsewhere in the country on Tuesday, Iraqi officials increased their pressure on the United States to agree to a schedule to withdraw its forces, a sign of the government's growing confidence as violence diminishes. An agreement is required to keep American troops in Iraq after a U.N. mandate expires on Dec. 31.

The Iraqi proposal indicates U.S. forces would have to be out five years after the Iraqis took the lead on security nationwide—a condition that could take years. The Bush administration opposes a timeline, saying U.S. troops will leave based on conditions rather than calendars.

Mullen came here Tuesday for a firsthand look at what had been, until recent weeks, the center of al-Qaida's stronghold in Mosul, the largest city in northern Iraq.

> 'This place was built on blood.'
> —Col. Muhammed i-Bllal



AP

In this Jan. 26, 2008 file photo, U.S. Army Spc. Kris Hostetler, 21, from Nashville, Tenn., a medic with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment patrols in Arab Jabour during Operation Coliseum south of Baghdad, Iraq.

Israel raids West Bank mall

NABLUS, West Bank (AP)—Israeli troops stormed the shopping mall in this West Bank city Tuesday and ordered it to close, saying the popular facility is linked to the militant Islamic Hamas.

The overnight move was the latest in a widening crackdown on the militant Islamic group in the West Bank, even as Israel observes a cease-fire with the Hamas regime in the Gaza Strip. Israel kept a vital Gaza cargo crossing open though Palestinians fired three mortar shells at Israel on Tuesday, violating a three-week-old truce.

Hamas condemned the Nablus operation as "provocative." Palestinian witnesses said the troops surrounded the Nablus Mall after midnight, sealing the building and posting closure orders in shop windows.

"There were dozens of soldiers, lots of jeeps," said Ali Ashur, 28, who owns a cell phone shop. He said he rushed to the scene about 2 a.m. after a security guard alerted him to the raid.

The five-story mall is one of the most popular spots in Nablus, a city of 135,000 that serves as the West Bank's commercial center. It has about 70 shops, including clothing stores, wedding shops and a restaurant.

The order, signed by an Israeli general who oversees the West Bank, said the building will be closed on Aug. 15, giving shop owners more than a month to move their businesses.

"Anyone found in this center after Aug. 15, will be considered as working on behalf of Hamas and puts himself and his properties in danger," the order said.

However, shops were closed Tuesday to protest the Israeli order. Businesses throughout the city prepared to hold a general strike on Wednesday as well.

Amid oil boom, inflation makes Saudis feel poorer

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Sultan al-Mazeen recently stopped at a gas station to fill up his SUV, paying 45 cents a gallon—about one-tenth what Americans pay these days.

But the Saudi technician says Americans shouldn't be jealous. Inflation that has hit 30-year highs on everything else in the kingdom is making Saudis feel poorer despite the flush of oil money.

"I tell the Americans, don't feel envious because gas is cheaper here," said al-Mazeen, 36. "We're worse off than before."

While Saudis don't feel the pain at the pump, they feel it everywhere else, paying more at grocery stores and restaurants and for rent and construction material. While the country is getting richer selling oil at prices that climbed to a record $145 per barrel last week, inflation has reached almost 11 percent, breaking double-digits for the first time since the late 1970s.

"Gas prices are low here, so what?" said Muhammad Abdullah, a 60-year-old retiree. "What can I do with gas? Drink it? Take it with me to the supermarket?"

Al-Mazeen says his monthly grocery bill has doubled—to $215—compared to last year, when oil was at around $70 a barrel. During that time period, the price of rice has doubled to about 72 cents a pound, and a pound of beef has gone up more than a third to about $4.

Moreover, Saudis are grappling with unemployment—estimated at 30 percent among young people aged 16 to 26—and a stock market that is down 10 percent since the beginning of the year.

Many Saudis are realizing that this oil boom will not have the same impact as the one in the 1970s, which raised Saudis from rags to riches. This time, the wealth isn't trickling down as fast or in the same quantities.

Church of England split on women bishops

LONDON (AP)—The Church of England's move to accept women bishops further roiled an already troubled Anglican communion Tuesday, infuriating conservatives and complicating efforts to promote unity with the Roman Catholic Church.

The Church of England's ruling body on Monday night voted to back women becoming bishops without giving traditionalist supporters of male-only bishops the concessions they had sought.

The Right Rev. Tom Wright, the bishop of Durham and conservative leader, said the General Synod's decision was muddled, just like one reached at a meeting of bishops in May.

"We should have pulled that debate then and there. It was the wrong time," Wright said.

Monday's decision also caused consternation at the Vatican.

It's "a further obstacle for the reconciliation between the Catholic Church and the Church of England," said Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity.

More than a dozen of the 38 national Anglican churches worldwide have authorized women to serve as bishops, but only four have appointed or elected a woman to the job.

Environment

GIS by the Environmental System Research Institute

By SOLOMON CASTRO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Editor's Note: Solomon Castro is a Coral Reef Intern at the Division of Environmental Quality.

Granted the opportunity to intern at the Division of Environmental Quality, I am in the process of learning how to apply the basic functions of ArcGIS. The geographic information system was created by the Environmental System Research Institute to see patterns and understand map densities, areas, and census tracts. Many individuals are unaware of GIS and its impact in the world around us. I have been working with the ArcGIS 9 system software that enables users to create maps and input GPS coordinates gathered from field work. ArcGIS is designed to work with just about every type of geographic data.

The experience has taught me to properly use a Global Positioning System. The Garment 76 GPS is a device that collects and pinpoints coordinates from satellite signals interacting with the handheld unit.

One of my first projects was conducting house-to-house visits about their on-site disposal system. My mentor and I interviewed at least one individual per house lot in the residential areas of Kagman I and II and checked whether the people were in compliance with the DEQ Wastewater Treatment & Disposal regulations. We also determined if their individual waste disposal systems are functioning properly. In addition, we collect GPS points of its location within the premises and also inspect for any potential environmental hazards that might be harmful to the environment and public health.

After retrieving GPS coordinates from each premises I then entered them into a database for data inventory and mapping purposes. The GPS device lets users collect and store information successfully by giving the exact location of a place and time.

My other internship project includes the Lau Lau Bay Revegetation project (Phase II) and studying how the surrounding and upland activities impact the coral reefs of Lau Lau bay. Lately, we had conducted surveys within the Lau Lau streams during and after heavy rainfalls to visually observe the amount of sediments being washed downstream from upland. Once this project is completed we will have a better understanding of what's causing the coral degradation at the Lau Lau site.

The ArcGIS data will provide better and effective solutions to preventing further damage to the coral reef. Recently my mentor and I worked on a project dealing with the storm water drainage systems along the coastlines of Saipan, starting from the northern part of the island working our way down to the southern part of the island. We were able to observe the conditions of the drainages and the impacts it has caused on our beaches. We gathered data's for each drainage, identified them and marked a location using the Trimble GeoXT 2004 series, which is a much more highly sophisticated GPS handheld system. It is used for gathering accurate data (sub meters) after differentially correcting each point. The device lets users gather points, lines, and areas more efficiently than the Garment 76 GPS because the Trimble Geo XT is a survey grade handheld mobile computer along with all its advance features built all into a 3 lb handheld device. It operates by a software called TerraSync, using all of the satellites orbiting in space and works together to locate points, lines, and areas more proficiently. I then can transform these GPS data into shapefile to be incorporated into ArcGIS. After it becomes a data layer it could be used for creating maps, performing analysis, understand areas of concerns by the use of overlaying other available data layers, and to use the data in making better decisions regarding DEQ's permitting activities, and in some cases predict contamination scenarios in our environment utilizing ArcGIS tools and extensions. The primary reason for using a map is to communicate geographic information.

All these experiences I have gained from DEQ have been valuable to my livelihood. I am astounded by all the creativity built into ArcGIS that when I achieve my college degree I plan on pursuing my dream of becoming a certified GIS expert. Thanks to Yubert M. Alepuyo and the Coral Reef Initiative internship team I am ever more grateful for the knowledge passed down to me seeing that I will use it to my benefit. Not only did this experience provide me the opportunity to learn about protecting the environment, it also made me aware of my responsibility to keep it cleaner and safer and ensure that the citizens of the CNMI are doing the same.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Solomon Castro takes the GPS coordinates of a Garapan drainage.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Kagman resident takes time out to participate in the Onsite Disposal System survey. The survey has been conducted by the non-point and wastewater/erosion control programs at DEQ for over two years now.

Reading. Learning. Sharing.

Reading, learning and sharing is what's happening at the Joeten Kiyu Public Library on Tuesdays and Fridays, coordinated by the Coastal Resources Management, Division of Environmental Quality and Division of Fish and Wildlife.

"We want to continue raising awareness and the library is the perfect learning venue during the summertime," said reina camacho, DEQ spokesperson.

Camacho said they start their outreach with story telling. She and the coral reef summer interns read a book with an environmental or conservation message, and explain a little about our natural resources and actions that people take that can harm our environment. Then, students take a short quiz and receive a free goody or activity page.

"We're pleased to see returning kids and hope that they enjoy the reading, learning and sharing time as much as we do," said Camacho.

The environment days at the library are Tuesdays at 10am and Fridays at 3pm. For more information about the outreach activity, please contact Reina Camacho at 664-8500 or her email her at reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp. ***(CoCo)***



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Matthew Blanco, education and outreach intern for the DEQ, reads The Giving Tree to the library participants last week on June 24. More interns will each have their turn reading, learning and sharing throughout the summer.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP:

Don't bag it!

Take a guess:
What's the best kind of bag to use when you go shopping?
a. Plastic b. Cloth c. Paper
Answer: B. Cloth is best; you can use it many times.

Did you ever stop to think how weird it is that everything we buy gets put in bags? Even when it's only one item, like a candy bar or soda can or bag of chips? A bag in a bag – now that's crazy.

But it happens all the time; and then we just throw the bag away. What a waste!

Bags are made from our earth's resources. Paper bags are made from trees; plastic bags are made from oil; and manufacturing them adds a lot of pollution.

Here are some ways you can help protect our resources and reduce pollution:

Refuse

■ If you're only buying a couple of items, consider carrying them.

■ When shopping, take reusable alternatives like 'green bags', calico bags, string bags, baskets or boxes with you. Keep them in the car, or put your car keys in them at home so you don't forget to take them with you.

■ Combine purchases into one bag rather than getting a new bag at each store.

Reduce

■ Count the number of plastic bags you use and aim to reduce that number each week.

■ Avoid putting items that already have handles, eg. dog food, laundry detergent, into plastic bags.

■ Avoid using small plastic bags as bin liners. Simply put your rubbish straight into your household bin and give the bin a quick rinse afterwards then reuse the water on your garden.

Reuse

■ Reuse plastic bags at home for: freezing food, packing children's school lunches, storage of clothing and other household items.

■ Keep a spare reusable shopping bag in your handbag or wallet for those times when you thought you would not need a bag, but did.

Recycle

■ Not all recycling centers on Saipan can recycle plastic bags. Call your waste hauler or recycling center and ask if they accept plastic (grocery) bags. If they don't, please don't put plastic bags in with your normal recycling; it can cause major problems in processing.

Stay motivated

■ Be proud to be a trend setter.

■ Encourage all family members to BYOB.

■ When you use your reusable bag, you are reminding and encouraging others to use theirs.

■ You are being an active part of the solution.

Source: http://environmental-activism.suite101.com/article.cfm/say_no_to_plastic_bags

DID YOU KNOW?

A 15-year-old tree only produces 700 paper bags. Please use canvas or other reusable bags when shopping for groceries, books, clothing, anything!

Life & Style

It's her party: Queen has 8,000 subjects to tea

By GREGORY KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LONDON (AP)—The times they aren't a changing. Not at Buckingham Palace, at least.

Tea with the queen Tuesday looked much the same as it would have 140 years ago when Queen Victoria started the tradition: men in tails and top hats, women in floral dresses and elaborate hats. It resembled a scene from a 19th-century painting.

The queen's first garden party of the summer season was a step back in time to an age when the food was flavorless—pass the cucumber sandwiches and milky tea, please—and everyone was ready to curtsy or bow when her majesty came by.

The roughly 8,000 guests did not include any outspoken republicans or anti-monarchists, but was filled with people who had dreamed for years—even decades—of attending a soiree like this.

Beryl Sanderson, whose husband is mayor of the south Yorkshire town of Barnsley, surveyed the scene with wonder.

"Everyone here is so proud and honored to be here today," said Sanderson, 63. "It's so peaceful, so dignified. Is there a word to describe the atmosphere?"

Her husband Ken Sanderson said he found the scene overwhelming.

"It's very humbling," he said. "It makes the hairs on your neck stand up on end. For the 8,000 guests, it's recognition of what they're doing in their communities."

No one can ask for a coveted invitation. Guests are nominated by civil servants, charitable organizations, the diplomatic corps, the military and other groups.

For most, it comes once in a lifetime, if at all: an invitation on special stationery from the Lord Chamberlain reporting that he has been commanded by her majesty to invite you—YOU!—to a party at the palace.

Many couples choose to mark the occasion by hiring one of the photographers working outside the palace to take a portrait of them in their formal clothes outside the black and gold palace gates.

Most guests don't get close enough to the queen to meet her, but they do get a chance to see her up close if they choose to wait in the lines that form wherever she walks.

"She's a wonderful lady, wonderful for everyone," said Beryl Sanderson, who spent five weeks choosing the purple dress and matching hat she wore.

Some reporters are asked two or three times. My first time, I made sure my shoes were perfectly polished, so the queen would not think poorly of me. But when I realized there were thousands of other guests, and that the queen was not likely to scrutinize my footwear, I let my standards drop a bit this time around, although I still tried to look my best.

Like most guests, I imagine, I'm fond of saying I've had tea with the queen—and not keen to point out that we were joined by 7,999 others. And like many of them, I've framed the photo I had taken that first time, although I wish my wife had told me my tie was askew.

As an American in London, I don't feel the deep connection many Britons do with the queen. But I enjoy thinking back on memorable events here—the royal family's appearance with Winston Churchill on the balcony at the end of World War II is my favorite—and I always marvel at the warmth and reverence the crowd has for the queen.

Walking through the palace, the building seems austere and almost forbidding, its walls lined with formal portraits, its dark rooms with very little natural light.

But walking outside, the vast garden is a revelation, festive and filled with color. The pond that is its centerpiece features weeping willow branches grazing the water and ducks flying free.

The sounds of the city do not intrude; it is hard to believe the gardens are in the center of a major metropolis.

The food is ample, with little chocolates decorated with the queen's crown—it's hard to know whether to eat them or take them home to freeze as souvenirs. Mindful of my diet, and my manners, I pass them by completely.

The most moving moment for most of the guests comes when the band strikes up "God Save the Queen" and Queen Elizabeth II, dressed in lilac, and her top-hatted husband appear on the front steps, standing motionless in front of the huge throng.

As applause ripples through the crowd it's easy to feel the hold this elaborate pageantry has on the people gathered here.

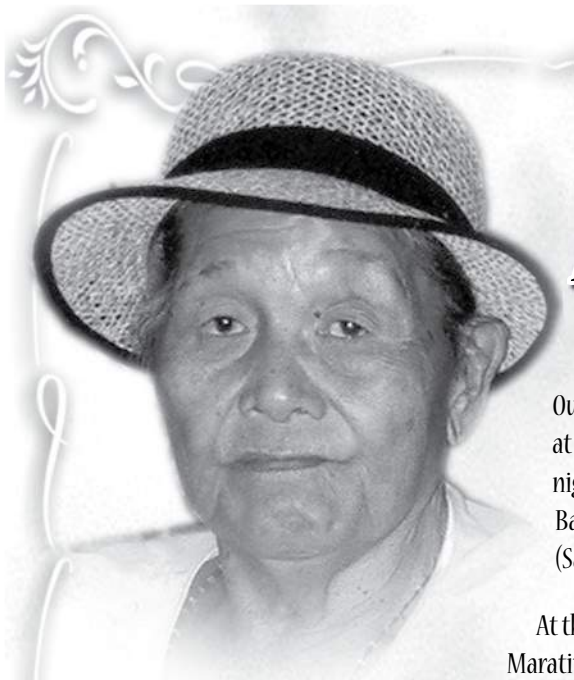
It's hard not to admire the queen's stamina. Here is an 82-year-old monarch willing to plunge into a crowd of thousands of strangers on her back lawn, stopping to greet hundreds of them as she walks to the royal tea tent, where a few thousand more are sitting just outside the security rope to see her up close.

See IT'S on Next Page



AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, in pink, meets guests gathered on the lawn at Buckingham Palace during a garden party, in London, Tuesday, July 8, 2008.



Called to Eternal Life

Ana Songao Hocog

July 13, 1932 – July 6, 2008

Our Heavenly Father welcomed Ana to her eternal life on Sunday, July 6, 2008 at the age of 76 years at Guam Memorial Hospital. Mass of intention and nightly rosary is being offered at 6:00 p.m.at Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Bascilica (Guam), Blessed Diego San Vitores Church (Guam), Saint Jude Church (Saipan), and San Isidro Church at 7:00 p.m. (Rota).

At the eternal gates of our Heavenly Father, Ana now joins her **parents**: Pedro Maratita Hocog and Escolastica Songsong Songao and her **brothers/sister/brothers-in-law**: Ignacio Songao Hocog, Domingo Quintanilla, Rosa Hocog Indalecio, Lucio Masga Manglona and David Aldan Indalecio, and also her **nieces and nephews**: Edward Hocog, Sabina Manglona Taisacan, Luis Hocog Manglona, and Raymond Hocog.

Ana's compassion and her wonderful sense of humor are being lovingly celebrated by her **children, their spouses, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren**: **Dr. Rita Hocog Inos** & Cristobal Inos (Denise Lorraine Hocog Inos, Elisabeth Inos Gardner, Ana Blossom Hocog Inos), **Senator Paterno Hocog** & Elizabeth Mendiola (Anginette Sasakura Mendiola-Bamba & John Anthony Bamba, Joshua Alfred Mendiola-Bamba, John Anthony Mundo-Bamba Jr, Carrie Lynn Ayuyu Hocog & Vito Mesngon Ulloa Jr., Andrei Mendiola & Elinor Amon, Elenecca Dee Amon Mendiola, Paterno Jose Ayuyu Hocog, Patty Beth Mendiola Hocog, Paterno Jr. Mendiola Hocog), **Manuel Hocog**, **Pedro Hocog** & Elizabeth Barcinas (Abel Barcinas Hocog, Flavian Barcinas Hocog, Lucille Barcinas Hocog, Peter Anthony Barcinas Hocog), **Angel Hocog**, **Elizabeth Hocog Apatang** & Joseph Apatang (Jolynn Hocog Apatang), and **Edward Hocog** & Ruby Hocog (Edward Jr. Manglona Hocog, Domingo Manglona Hocog, Takara Mendiola Santos, Angieanna Manglona Hocog, Esco Ann Dela Cruz Hocog, Kiana Dela Cruz Hocog), and her aide, **Moji**.

Ana is additionally survived by her **sister**, Milagro H. Manglona and her **children**: Francisco Manglona, Yvonne Manglona, Trisha Hocog and **sister-in-law** Dolores Borja Hocog and her **children**: Alice Atalig, **Janet Hocog Ogo** & Pedro Ogo, **Congressman Victor Borja Hocog** & Villia Mendiola Hocog, **Lydia Hocog Aldan** & Jose Benavente Aldan, **Dr. Paterno (Loreto) Hocog** & Matilde Castro Hocog, **Vianney Borja Hocog** & Angie Atalig Hocog and her **nieces and nephews**: **Martina Indalecio Bio** & Raymond Bio, **Carmen Indalecio Ayuyu** & Rick Capili, **Pedro Hocog Indalecio** & Maria Castro Indalecio, **William Hocog Indalecio** & Josephine Sablan Indalecio, **Anthony Hocog Indalecio** & Wimcy Orat, and **Maria Indalecio Banca** & Mario Banca.

Numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends will also miss her.

Viewing will be held at Ada's Funeral Home in Sinajana,Guam on Thursday, July 10, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Last respects for Ana will be held at San Francisco de Borja Church (Rota) on Monday, July 14, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. followed by mass of Christian burial at San Antonio San Jose Cemetary in Songsong Village (Rota).

Si Yu'us Ma'ase ginen I famagu'oña yan I familian Maratita, Songao, Hocog yan Inos.

Kidman birth adds to Nashville's image as oasis

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Nicole Kidman has described Nashville as a quiet escape, a nice place to raise a garden or grab coffee without photographers in tow.

So it really shouldn't be a surprise that it's also where she and husband Keith Urban chose to have their first child.

"When you look at Nicole and Keith, they seem to be at ease in Nashville. Especially Nicole seems to embrace the city," observed Dina Sansing, entertainment director for Us Weekly magazine.

Kidman, 41, gave birth early Monday to a baby girl, Sunday Rose Kidman Urban.

With the couple also owning homes in Los Angeles and Australia, there was speculation about where they'd have the baby.



Kidman

But in recent weeks as the Oscar-winning actress was spotted attending yoga classes and shopping near her home, it became apparent she intended to stay put. Urban virtually confirmed as much in a Saturday concert here when he dedicated his hit "Better Half" to his "very, very, very, very, very pregnant wife."

"It seems the perfect place to have the child there because they do seem so happy there," Sansing said.

It's ironic that Nashville, the city that Robert Altman poked fun at with his '70s film "Nashville" and that spawned the cornpone TV series "Hee Haw," is being celebrated as laid-back and hip - but perhaps that's what it's come to.

Miley Cyrus, who grew up here, is also filming a movie here. Kidman, Reese Witherspoon, Ashley Judd - and, during her brief relationship with Kenny Chesney, Rene Zellweger - either lived here, worked here or spent considerable time here. Ditto for tabloid queen Jessica Simpson and TV's "Dancing with the Stars" champ Julianne Hough. Rock stars Sheryl Crow, Jack White and Kid Rock all own homes here.

"I definitely think it's easier to live as a celebrity in Nashville," said Maureen O'Connor, a publicist with Los Angeles-based Rogers & Cowan. "LA isn't as bad as London, but we do have a lot of paparazzi-type photographers and online media who can torment celebrities to the point that making a law against it has been proposed many times.

"Most of America is an easier place to live as a celebrity. Nashville has the advantage of also being a place that you can do entertainment industry business quite efficiently," O'Connor added.

Indeed, Nashville has been a music center since the 1920s. Stars are largely left alone here when they're out and about. Even in the hours after Kidman's birth, a highly competitive and anticipated international story, the grounds of Baptist Hospital appeared remarkably free of paparazzi.

"When Toby is in New York, it is completely different than in Nashville," observed Elaine Schock, a Los Angeles-based publicist who represents country superstar Toby Keith. "The paparazzi know exactly where he is and where he is going."

But increasingly, Nashville is on the celebrity news radar. And it's not only the influx of non-country celebrities that's generating interest, says Julie Dam, senior editor at People magazine. Contemporary country stars like Chesney, Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift have a broader following than most of their counterparts did a generation ago.

"It's definitely become more mainstream. It's not just country fans who are interested anymore. They have a much wider audience," Dam said. "We're doing a lot more country music stories than we had been doing in the past."

IT'S

From Page 19

Her husband stays at it even longer. Prince Philip, with his familiar craggy features, spends nearly an hour chatting up guests on his way to the tent.

Even the dicey weather cooperates. Storm clouds gathered several times but the threat of rain faded after a few drops fell and the crisp late afternoon was bathed in light.

Tuesday's party will be followed by several more.

Each summer the queen throws at least three garden parties in London and one more at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. Some have special themes—among the most memorable was a 1997 event to mark the 50th anniversary of her marriage to Prince Philip. The guests were other British couples celebrating their 50th.

The food may be simple, but preparations are elaborate. Some 27,000 cups of tea are served—don't try making any special requests- along with 20,000 carefully trimmed sandwiches and 20,000 slices of cake.

For the guests, it is a rare chance to see firsthand just how pleasant the queen's circumstances are. The magnificent gardens of Buckingham Palace sit on 42 acres in the heart of central London, and this isn't even the queen's favorite palace.

She much prefers nearby Windsor Castle and Balmoral Castle, one of her Scottish retreats. But when she has to be in the city, Buckingham Palace, with its 775 rooms, will do just fine.

Plus, it's a great place for a party.

"I love this for three reasons: history, heritage, and the reality of sovereignty," Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne said on her way into the party. "This is not a game, this is real."

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Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. ~ Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



Wall - E

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:05 7:05 9:40
Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:05 7:05

Wall-E as played by Tracy McGrady
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated G

Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.

★ ★ ★



Wanted

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:25 9:50
Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:25

James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
Action • Rated R



Get Smart

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:15 7:10 9:45
Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:15 7:10

Steve Carell, Anne Hathaway
Comedy, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



The Love Guru

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30

Mike Myers, Jessica Alba
Comedy • Rated PG 13



Incredible Hulk

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:00 7:00 7:30
Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:00 7:30

Edward Norton, Liv Tyler
Action, Adaptation • Rated PG 13



The Happening

Fri & Sat 7:15 10:00
Sun thru Thurs 7:15

Mark Wahlberg, John Leguizamo
Action, Thriller • Rated R



Kung Fu Panda

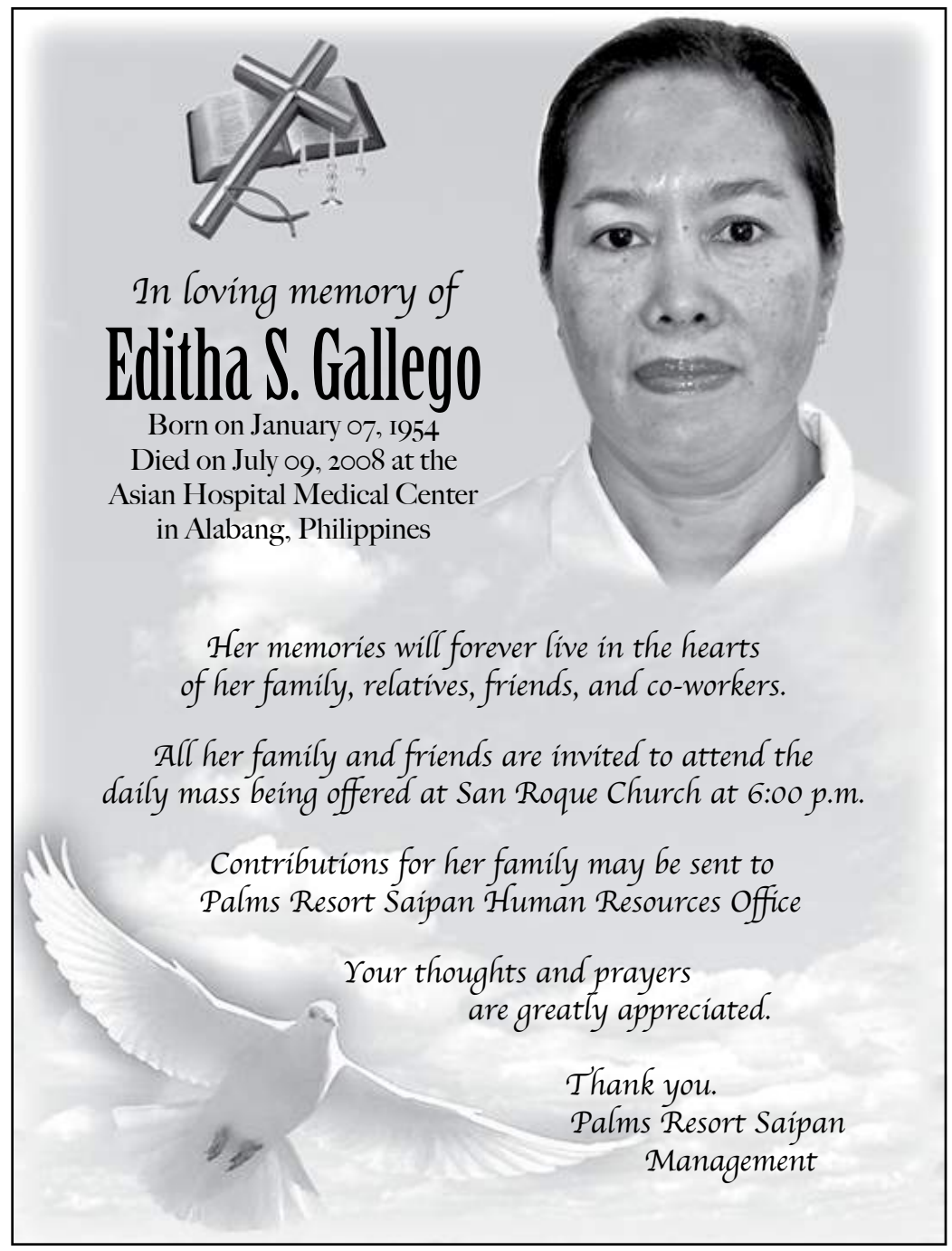
Fri & Sat 1:05 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:20

Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

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Drew, Justin end relationship

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Long and Drew Barrymore have ended their romance, the actor's publicist said Tuesday.

"I just wanted to confirm that, yes, they did break up," Carrie Gordon told The Associated Press in a phone interview, adding that the couple remain friends. Gordon didn't give further details.

Barrymore, 33, and Long, 30, co-star in the movie adaptation of the self-help best-seller "He's Just Not That Into You," slated for release next February.

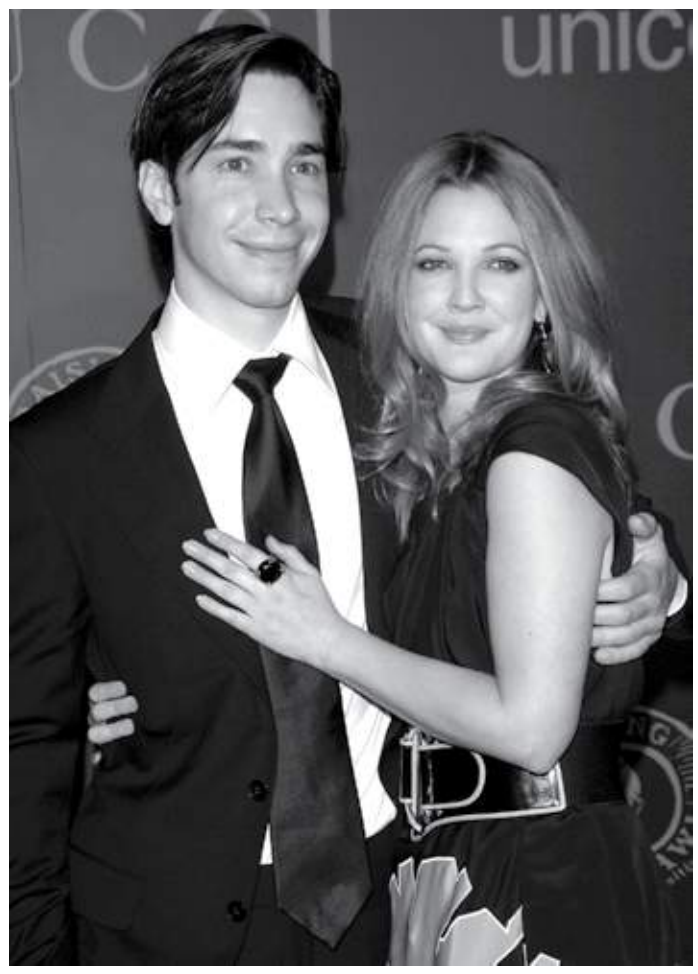
The split comes as a surprise, given their public displays of affection since they began dating last year.

Long's big-screen credits include "Accepted" and "Dodgeball," and he's also the "Mac guy" in Apple's TV commercials. Barrymore's screen credits include "Fever Pitch," "50 First Dates" and "E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial."

The lanky actor seemed smitten with the actress-producer, escorting her to red-carpet events including Madonna and Gucci's "A Night to Benefit Raising Malawi and UNICEF" party in New York City in February.

He was in the audience during Barrymore's recent appearance on Oprah Winfrey's talk show. Beaming, Long gushed: "She's the most compassionate person I've ever met."

"This relationship is great," Barrymore told Winfrey. "It's healthy, it's productive, and it's supportive. It's full of humor and a lot of fun."



AP

In this Feb. 6, 2008 file photo, actress Drew Barrymore and actor Justin Long arrive at "A Night to Benefit Raising Malawi and UNICEF" at United Nations headquarters.

Nate Dogg charged with stalking wife

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prosecutors have filed felony charges against Nate Dogg, who authorities suspect threatened and stalked his wife.

The rapper, whose real name is Nathaniel Dwayne Hale, was charged Monday. He was arrested last month by the California Highway Patrol after his wife claimed he was threatening her and following her as she drove on a freeway south of Los Angeles.

Hale, 38, will be arraigned July 16 on felony counts of making criminal threats, stalking and a misdemeanor charge of driving while his license was suspended for a drunken driving violation.

He was arrested June 23 and released on bail a day later.

His attorney, Mark Geragos, said Tuesday he looked forward to defending his client in court. "Unfortunately he's had a tough year and we look forward to getting him through it," Geragos said.

Hale made his name appearing on songs alongside rappers such as Snoop Dogg, Warren G, 50 Cent and Eminem.

Britney to film footage for Madonna's '08 tour

NEW YORK (AP)—Madonna has recruited Britney Spears for a virtual appearance on her upcoming tour.

"There is footage being shot of Britney some time this week in conjunction with Madonna's upcoming (Sticky & Sweet) tour," Madonna's publicist, Liz Rosenberg, said in an e-mail Tuesday to The Associated Press. "That is all the information I have available. The rest is `a secret.'"

Rosenberg denied reports that Spears, 26, is shooting a music video.

Madonna guest starred in a music video for Spears' single "Me Against the Music" in 2003. The singers stirred up controversy that year with an open-mouth kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards.

Madonna, 49, will kick off her tour Aug. 23 in Cardiff, Wales, and wind through European destinations including London and Paris before jumping to the U.S. in October.

She'll wrap it up Nov. 30 in Mexico City.

McConaughey, girlfriend have baby boy



AP

In this Dec. 2007 file photo, Actor Matthew McConaughey and girlfriend Camilla Alves attend a private dinner hosted by Domenico Dolce & Stefano Gabbana in New York.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Matthew McConaughey's longtime model girlfriend, Camila Alves, has given birth to the couple's first child, a 7-pound, 4-ounce boy.

Alves, 24, gave birth Monday night in California and named the child Levi, McConaughey's publicist, Alan Nierob, said in an e-mail Tuesday to The Associated Press.

The 38-year-old actor announced that Alves was pregnant in a posting on his Web site in January.

"Camila and I were side by side the entire time," McConaughey told OK! magazine. "We are both tired and elated, and are so happy to have created the greatest miracle in the world - having a child and making a family."

"Now comes the greatest adventure—raising one, together."

Steve-O says sobriety won't stop stunts

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Sobriety won't change some things about Steve-O - the daredevil prankster says he could still perform many of the radical stunts that made him famous.

"I can do what I've done in the past," the 34-year-old said after appearing in a Los Angeles criminal courtroom for a Tuesday hearing, where his attorney gave a progress report on Steve-O's recovery from drug and alcohol addiction.



Steve-O

The judge said he wanted to see the stuntman, whose real name is Stephen Glover, again in about two months. The updates are required after Glover pleaded guilty to cocaine possession in early June.

Glover dressed for Tuesday's hearing in blue jeans, sneakers and a button-down shirt that barely concealed a hospital wristband.

On July 3, he posted a MySpace missive saying he had checked himself back into a treatment facility. He said Tuesday he did so on the advice of his psychiatrist.

"I did a lot of damage to my brain," Glover said, adding he still suffers from bipolar and mood disorders.

His attorney told reporters that Glover has been receiving treatment at a recovery medical hospital, which he declined to identify. But in his raspy voice, Glover described it differently. "I'm in a damn looney bin," he joked.

He acknowledged the treatment has changed how he views things.

"I adjusted my sense of what's acceptable and unacceptable," Glover said.

But he maintains that he can still do many of the audacious pranks that made him a household name as the host of the MTV show "Jackass."

Struggling single dad finds out how little he knows

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a single parent, although I never intended to be. Last fall, I was asked to baby-sit a 14-year-old boy. He has been in my custody ever since. His mother abandoned him. Only in the last month have I actually gotten legal custody of him from Social Services. The problems he had prior to being with me have caused me legal expenses I never could have imagined. (They are all paid now.)

I sold my truck and moved out of my original apartment, so I don't have much. We have no furniture other than the beds we sleep on and a dining room table we received as a gift. I have no idea where to go for help. I have no idea what I am doing as a parent. But I made a promise to that boy, and I fully intend to make sure that I carry it through. What do I need to know?

NEW FATHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR NEW FATHER: Congratulations on becoming a father. You have already mastered the most important lesson on becoming a parent—and that's being there for your child. The library is filled with books on parenting, and I'm sure you will find some answers there. But you are already a stable influence, and that's what the boy needs. You should also know that there is money available to take care of your boy, and the Department of Social Services should be able to help you get it.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Due to years of abuse at the hands of my parents, I decided I could no longer continue a relationship with them. Ten years ago, for the sake of my mental health, I took control and cut the "disease" out of my life. It was one of the hardest things I have ever had to do, but it was also one of the best decisions I ever made. I am now a happier, healthier person and have no regrets.

My problem is people who hear about my decision feel the need to tell me about the "inevitable regret" I will feel, and that I should forget the past and make amends.

My decision was not made lightly. I gave it considerable thought and, while it may not be the right choice for everyone, it was the right one for me. People are entitled to their opinion, but I am tired of feeling as though I have to defend myself.

Please encourage your readers to respect the decisions of others, even if they don't always agree.

PEACE AT LAST IN TORONTO

DEAR PEACE AT LAST: Do not feel you have to defend yourself. Those who are trying to warn you about your "inevitable regret" are speaking through the filter of their own experience. They do not understand that some family relationships are toxic rather than nurturing, so don't argue the issue. Accept that they mean well and tune them out. You have suffered enough.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm starting a small business and have begun to purchase office equipment. When any recent purchase comes up in conversation, the next thing out of people's mouths is, "How much did that cost?"

I think that question is extremely presumptuous. I don't ask them how much their new car or their new house cost them. What's the best way to politely ignore the question?

JUST WONDERING IN ITHACA, N.Y.

DEAR JUST WONDERING: If you bring up the subject of a new purchase, it is natural for people to be curious. The way to avoid a problem like yours is not to "go there" in the first place. My advice is to stop talking about the items you're buying, and your problem will resolve itself.

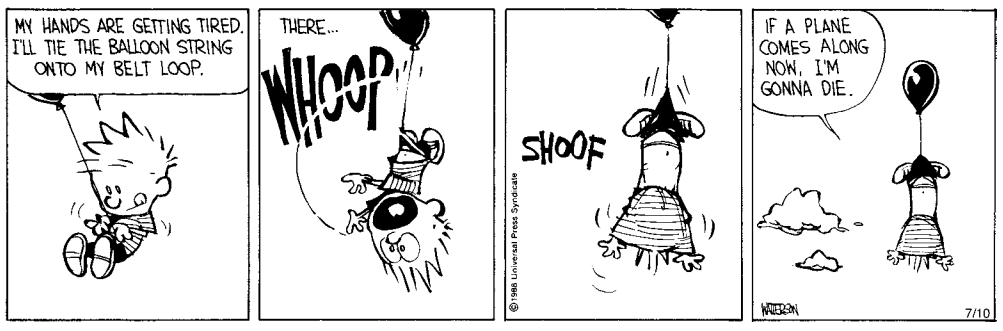
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



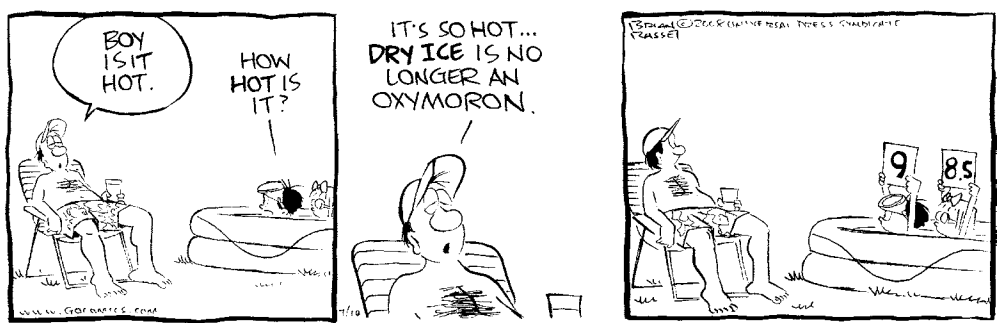
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



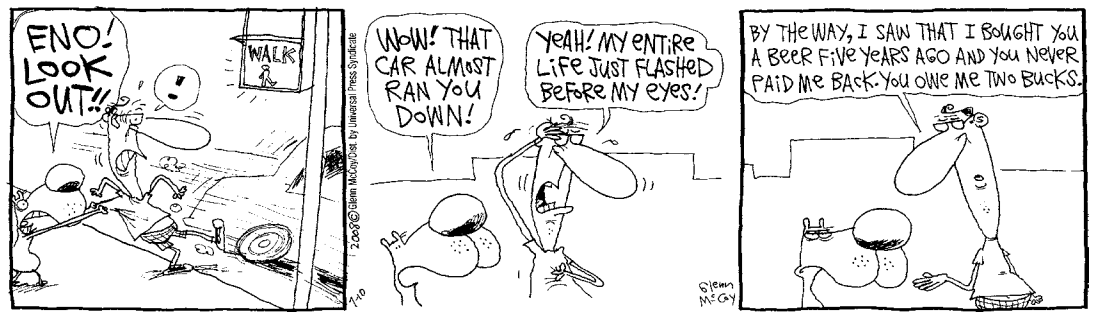
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

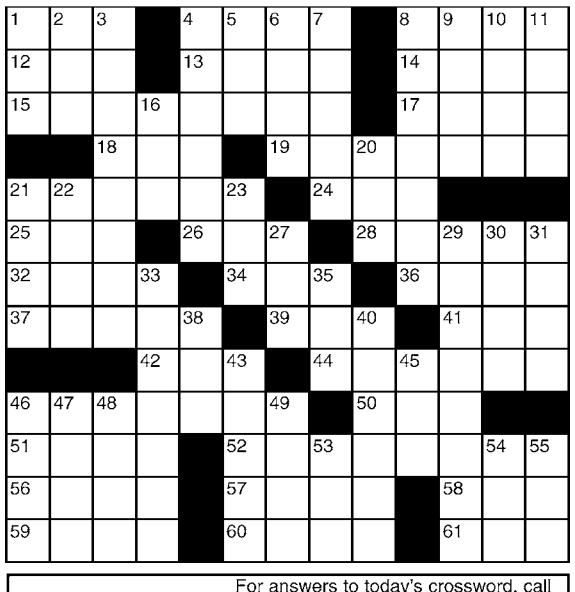
ACROSS
1 "Family Guy" daughter
4 Worm, often
8 "Take — Train"
12 Expert
13 Radius neighbor
14 Lend a hand
15 Banner
17 Relaxation
18 Journal
19 Hit the ice
21 Hesitate
24 Lanka lead-in
25 Blackbird
26 Succumb to gravity
28 Group character
32 Protracted
34 Rundown horse
36 Ganges garment
37 Prepared to pray
39 Deviate off course
41 Disney/Pixar's Remy, e.g.
42 Doctrine
44 Row, row, row your boat
46 Run playfully
50 Solidify
51 Standard
52 "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" aid
56 Out of harm's way
57 Stench
58 Promptly
59 Type of fruit
60 Beaks
61 First lady

DOWN
1 Speedometer stat
2 Before
3 Ball-carrier's destination
4 Swells
5 Foreman foe
6 B&Bs
7 Chinese weights
8 Worst condition
9 Pile
10 Otherwise
11 Lacked originality
16 Tittle
20 Anger
21 Columbo portrayer
22 Very soon
23 Operated
27 Festive
29 Uncompromising
30 Exam format
31 Location
33 Scintilla
35 Space
38 Recipe meas.
40 Bets
43 Crenshaw, for one
45 Benicio — Toro
46 Go postal
47 "Unforgettable" singer
48 Vicinity
49 Carnival attraction
53 Watch chain
54 Autumnal abbr.
55 Lamb's mama

Solution time: 25 mins.

Z	A	P	■	S	O	R	T	■	R	E	L	Y
O	W	E	■	A	F	A	R	■	E	R	I	E
O	R	E	■	S	T	E	A	D	F	A	S	T
M	Y	N	A	H	■	■	Y	O	U	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	M	E	■	E	S	T	E	S
H	A	L	F	M	A	S	T	■	E	U	R	O
E	P	A	■	I	N	T	O	A	■	B	O	O
A	S	S	T	■	N	E	W	S	C	A	S	T
R	E	H	A	B	■	E	N	I	D	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	O	G	■	■	A	S	I	D	E
S	A	N	D	B	L	A	S	T	■	D	O	W
K	N	E	E	■	A	N	T	I	■	L	E	E
I	T	E	M	■	M	A	S	C	■	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer 7-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jessica Simpson, 28; Arlo Guthrie, 61; Sue Lyon, 62; Lawrence Pressman, 69

Happy Birthday: Don't count on anything or anyone this year. If you wait for others to do things, you will accomplish little. Emotional matters at home will result in necessary changes. Don't fight the inevitable. Acceptance and recognizing new opportunities can blossom into new ways for the future. Your numbers are 10, 18, 23, 30, 35, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get pulled into an argument if you can avoid it. Emotions will flare and the chance of resolving anything is unlikely. Helping others quietly and keeping comments to yourself is your best bet for now. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Being a little nostalgic will work wonders for your morale. Spending time with friends, family and your lover will bring about favors, good memories and reconnecting with past partners and goals you once had. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put together a strategy to help you achieve your goals. Talking about what you want to do with friends and people who can help you will be fruitful. Don't be afraid to present something that is totally different and unique. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The changes you make may be necessary but that won't stop some of the people you are emotionally connected with to cause you grief, asking questions and pushing you to do what you don't want to do. It's time to follow your heart and show your determination. ✪✪

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): An awkward situation will lead to emotional interactions with someone to whom you are indebted. You may have to backtrack if you stepped over a line. Don't spend money you don't have or make decisions that shouldn't be made alone. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You may be able to avoid someone or something by talking your way around it but, in the end, you will probably have to give in to changing circumstances. Don't waste time; do what needs to be done and move on. There are bigger and better opportunities. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't take things too seriously or anyone too literally. You are likely to misinterpret what's being said, causing you to make a mistake. Take longer to discuss and plan so you don't have to redo. Don't let love problems interfere with your work. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Evaluate what's going on, being offered and the consequences of the decisions you make. You will find it difficult to separate your professional and personal life. It's not a good idea to lead someone on. Change is inevitable. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): People trying to help others will inspire you. Realizing your potential is half the battle. Once you recognize your attributes, you will be able to make headway, marking a better future and a renewed sense of belonging and success. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't push your luck with partners. Troubled relationships will leave you perplexed and possibly alone to figure things out for yourself. Neglect or shortsightedness on your part is causing the problems. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be intrigued with a domestic product or service shown by someone you meet through work or an activity you participate in. Check it out—it will benefit you if you tweak it to your liking and offer it to some trusted individuals. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Love or a personal friend are likely to interfere with what you are doing, costing you financially. You cannot make changes on a whim when there is so much at stake. Focus on work, money and getting ahead. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are brave, courageous and can be manipulative. You are proud, a little bit stubborn and an emotional reactionary. You have charisma and character.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			4	9	5	2		
		8				3	7	
	3		5				1	
	9			2			8	
	7				1		5	
	5	9				4		
		2	6	7	9			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	1	6	9	7	3	5	4
5	9	7	4	3	1	2	6	8
6	4	3	5	8	2	9	7	1
1	6	5	8	7	3	4	2	9
3	7	2	9	4	5	1	8	6
9	8	4	1	2	6	7	3	5
2	1	6	3	5	4	8	9	7
4	3	9	7	6	8	5	1	2
7	5	8	2	1	9	6	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FRENCH FARE **Solution: 7 letters**

M	E	A	L	A	N	O	I	T	I	D	A	R	T	C
R	E	T	T	U	B	E	R	A	P	E	R	P	B	H
T	R	N	R	L	A	M	B	Y	T	S	P	E	F	E
O	E	R	U	M	Y	D	A	E	R	S	V	U	N	F
G	T	N	O	I	T	U	L	O	V	E	R	I	O	S
R	I	R	P	L	S	L	L	O	R	R	W	D	T	S
A	A	C	S	E	I	R	F	A	S	T	B	E	E	R
C	W	O	I	F	M	A	G	A	E	S	A	L	R	G
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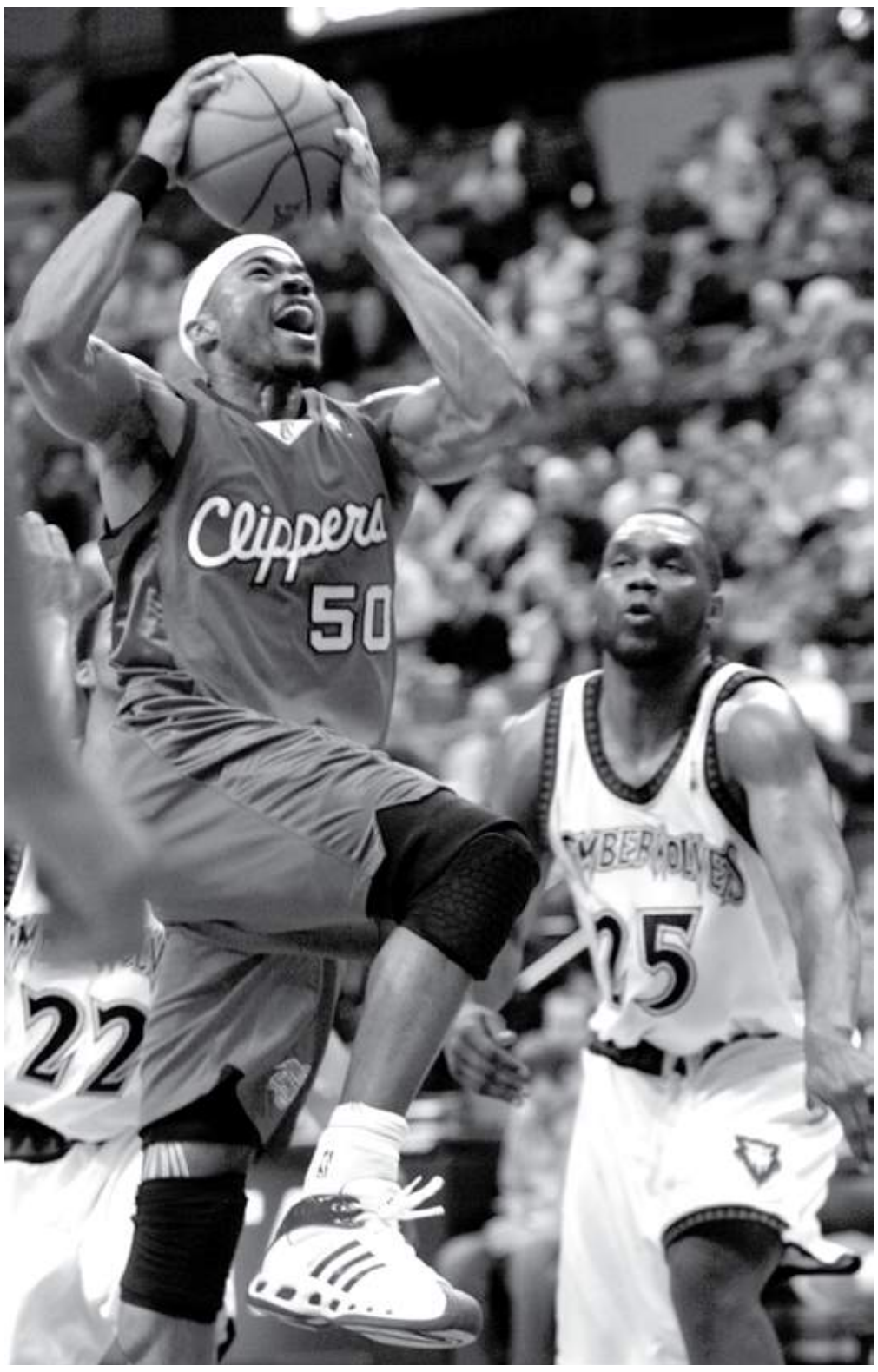
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Warriors reportedly to ink Maggette to 5-year deal



AP

In this March 17, 2008 file photo, Los Angeles Clippers' Corey Maggette (50) drives the basket by Minnesota Timberwolves' Al Jefferson, right, in third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Minneapolis.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors will sign high-scoring free agent Corey Maggette to a five-year contract worth around $50 million, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be announced until Wednesday at the earliest, confirmed Maggette will leave the Los Angeles Clippers for a lucrative long-term deal with the fast-paced Warriors, who outbid several suitors for the former Duke star.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* first reported the deal.

Maggette, a 6-foot-6 swingman who led Los Angeles in scoring last season, should fit splendidly into Golden State coach Don Nelson's pell-mell style of play. He averaged 22.1 points, 5.6 rebounds and 2.7 assists last season for the moribund Clippers, finishing slightly off his career highs in all three categories.

Maggette has been with the Clippers since 2000, longer than any other player. But Maggette and teammate Elton Brand opted out of the final years of their contracts last week, with Maggette turning down $7 million for next season.

The 28-year-old Maggette will trade places on the California coast with Baron Davis, who spurned the Warriors last week for his hometown Clippers. Davis, who was considered the Warriors' team leader until his abrupt decision to opt out of a $17 million deal for next season, accepted a smaller salary in Los Angeles for a long-term contract and the chance to team up with Brand and perhaps Maggette.

Instead, Davis looks to be stuck on another rebuilding Clippers roster. The club is expected to lose Brand as well, amid reports he has agreed to a long-term deal with the Philadelphia 76ers. The Warriors also made a play for the power forward, likely driving up Brand's price.

Davis' departure cleared room under the Warriors' salary cap for Maggette, who reportedly drew attention from Boston, San Antonio, Detroit, Utah and Orlando. Golden State apparently offered more money and a longer term than most of Maggette's suitors, who mostly couched their offers at the mid-level salary cap exception.

Maggette easily could fill the void left by underachieving Golden State swingmen Mickael Pietrus, who's expected to sign with Orlando, and Matt Barnes, who won't be back, according to Nelson.

Stephen Jackson and Al Harrington are the only veteran regulars currently under contract to the Warriors, but top basketball executive Chris Mullin has said high-scoring guard Monta Ellis and center Andris Biedrins—both restricted free agents—will be back at any price, hopefully with long-term deals.

Promising youngsters Brandan Wright and Marco Belinelli also will return for their second NBA seasons, along with rookies Anthony Randolph and Richard Hendrix.

Nelson has promised to give more playing time to his young players in the upcoming season, even at the expense of a few victories. Still, with Maggette's arrival, the Warriors will have three veterans who each averaged 20 points per game last season.

Sources: Philadelphia sends Carney, top pick to 'Wolves

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—The 76ers have agreed to trade forward Rodney Carney and a future No. 1 pick to the Minnesota Timberwolves, two people in the NBA told The Associated Press on Tuesday, in a deal that clears salary cap space for Philadelphia to make a stronger play for free agent Elton Brand.

The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the trade had not yet been completed and the NBA trade moratorium is not lifted until Wednesday.

The 76ers will throw in reserve forward Calvin Booth, and acquired a future second round draft pick and Minnesota's $2.8 million trade exception gained in a 2007 deal with Miami.

"The only thing I can share with you is that Calvin's contract will be traded to Minnesota tomorrow," said Booth's agent, Mark Termini.

The deal clears the way for the Sixers to potentially offer a nearly $14 million starting salary and a long-term deal to a free agent such as Brand—and he may be on the way.

The *Los Angeles Times* reported, citing an unidentified NBA source, on its Web site that Brand reached a verbal agreement to sign a multiyear contract with the Philadelphia 76ers.

The emerging Sixers now have another $2 million in salary cap space to add to the $11 million in space available that they hope will land them the post player they badly need to become contenders in the Eastern Conference.

A proposed trade between the teams was first reported by Yahoo.com.

The Sixers had Atlanta forward Josh Smith in town for a visit last week but did not give the restricted free agent an offer sheet. As he's a restricted free agent, the Hawks can match any offer made to the 6-foot-9, 235-pound Smith.

"There are still a couple of other teams in the mix," said Wallace Prather, Smith's agent. "Philly just seemed to be the most serious at the time. There are more options out there. I guess Philly wanted to do different things on the court. No hard feelings or anything."

Brand's arrival would be a huge move for the Sixers, who have worked quickly to become contenders in the Eastern Conference. Brand is the type of low post player Philadelphia desperately needed, averaging 20.3 points and 10.2 rebounds in nine seasons. Brand played in only eight games last season because of an Achilles' tendon injury.

Brand opted out last week of his contract with the Clippers and had said he planned to stay with the Clippers despite his decision

Brand could make the Sixers contenders in the Eastern Conference. They were one of the surprise teams in the league last season, going 40-42 and stretching Detroit to six games in the first round of the playoffs.

76ers spokesman Mike Preston had no comment on Brand.

The trade allows the rebuilding Timberwolves, who have long been one of the worst cap managers in the league, to continue putting themselves in a position to be a major player on the free agent markets in 2009 and 2010.

Carney has one year remaining on his contract with a team option for 2009-10, while Booth will come off the books at the end of the upcoming season, unless a buyout agreement is reached before that.

The Timberwolves received the trade exception from the Heat because they took on less cash than they gave up in a deal last October that sent Mark Blount and Ricky Davis to Miami in exchange for Antoine Walker, Michael Doleac and Wayne Simien. That deal allowed them to rid themselves of Blount's bloated contract.

On draft night in June, the Timberwolves were able to unload Marko Jaric's hefty deal, shipping him to Memphis with O.J. Mayo, Walker and Greg Buckner for Kevin Love, Mike Miller, Jason Collins and Brian Cardinal. All three of the Grizzlies in that deal have contracts that will expire no later than 2010.

That freedom will allow the team to pursue a big-name free agent or two to supplement a rising young core group of Al Jefferson, Randy Foye, Corey Brewer and Rashad McCants.

As a secondary prize on the court in the Philly deal, Carney will give them an athletic swingman who averaged 5.8 points and 2.1 rebounds in his second season out of Memphis. Booth, if he stays, will give the team a little more depth at center behind Jefferson and Collins.

Imprisoned Michael Vick files for bankruptcy protection

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Imprisoned quarterback Michael Vick filed for bankruptcy protection while serving time for federal dogfighting charges, saying he owes between $10 million and $50 million to creditors.

Vick filed Chapter 11 papers in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Newport News on Monday. The seven largest creditors listed in the court papers are owed a total of about $12.8 million.

The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback hopes he "can, after the conclusion of the bankruptcy case, rebuild his life on a personal and spiritual level, resurrect his image as a public figure, and resolve matters with the NFL such that he can resume his career," according to the filings.

Vick is serving a 23-month prison sentence at the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kan., after pleading guilty last year to bankrolling a dogfighting ring. He was subsequently suspended indefinitely without pay and lost all his major sponsors, including Nike. He also faces state charges related to dogfighting.

The debt includes part of a signing bonus that the Falcons are seeking to recover.

After the plea on dogfighting charges, the Falcons tried to recover about $20 million in bonuses Vick earned from 2004 to 2007. But a federal judge held that Vick is entitled to keep all but $3.75 million of the money paid to him for playing football through the 2014 season.

According to the filings, Vick's other debts include $4.5 million owed to Richmond-based Joel Enterprises Inc., and $550,0000 owed to Radtke Sports Inc. for breach of contract.

In May, a federal judge ordered Vick to repay about $2.5 million to a Canadian bank for defaulting on a loan. The Royal Bank of Canada had sued Vick in September, arguing his guilty plea to a federal dogfighting charge—and the resulting impact on his career—prevented him from repaying the loan.

A default judgment for $1.08 million also was entered in January against Vick and a business partner in a lawsuit brought by Wachovia Bank over a loan for an Atlanta-area wine shop and restaurant.

Sabathia winner in Brewers debut against Colorado

MILWAUKEE (AP)—C.C. Sabathia gave up two earned runs and five hits over six innings for Milwaukee in a 7-3 victory over Colorado in the National League on Tuesday, a day after he was acquired in a trade with Cleveland.

Sabathia (1-0), the reigning American League Cy Young pitching award winner, walked five, tying the season high he set back in April.

The Brewers led 4-1 after five innings and Sabathia got in trouble in the sixth, loading the bases with no outs. Yorvit Torrealba doubled down the right-field line to drive in two runs, but Sabathia got out of the inning without giving up the lead.

He was replaced by reliever David Riske in the seventh, and the Brewers' bullpen held on for the victory as Milwaukee added three runs in the seventh.

Ryan Braun hit his 22nd homer in the first, a three-run drive off Rockies starter Mark Redman (2-4).

Cardinals 2, Phillies 0

At Philadelphia, Joel Pineiro and three relievers combined on a six-hitter, and Rick Ankiel and Ryan Ludwick hit solo homers as St. Louis beat Philadelphia.

Pineiro (3-4) allowed five hits and walked three in 6 1-3 innings for his first win since April 29. He was 0-2 with seven no-decisions in his previous nine starts.

Cole Hamels (9-6) gave up three hits—including the home runs—in seven innings and struck out eight.

Ankiel hit his 19th homer in the fifth and Ludwick hit his 18th in the sixth.

Mets 7, Giants 0

aAt New York, Mike Pelfrey won his fifth straight start and Carlos Beltran drove in four runs for surging New York.

Beltran hit a three-run homer in the first and Carlos Delgado also connected off Tim Lincecum (10-2) to help the Mets win their fourth straight. New York is 11⁄2 games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

Two of the three hits Pelfrey (7-6) allowed over seven innings were infield singles. He struck out five as the Mets (46-44) went two games above .500 for the first time since May 20.

San Francisco's Lincecum allowed a season-high nine hits in six innings. He struck out four, increasing his NL-high total to 126.

Diamondbacks 2, Nationals 0

At Washington, Brandon Webb earned his major league-leading 13th win, pitching six scoreless innings for Arizona.

Webb (13-4) struck out six and allowed six hits and two walks.

Washington lost its sixth straight game. Starter Odalis Perez (2-6) was ejected in the third inning for arguing the second balk call in an inning against him.

It was the 11th time this season the Nationals have been shut out.

Cubs 7, Reds 3

At Chicago, Ryan Dempster became the first Cubs pitcher in 31 years to start a season 10-0 at home and Mike Fontenot and Geovany Soto homered for Chicago.

Dempster (10-3) is the first Cubs' pitcher to win his first 10 decisions at home since Rick Reuschel in 1977. He allowed two hits and a run in seven innings.

Cincinnati starter Aaron Harang walked a career-high seven and gave up six runs and five hits in 4 1-3 innings.

Fontenot gave Chicago a 4-1 lead in the fourth with his sixth homer. Soto had a two-run shot, his 16th, to chase Harang (3-11) in the fifth and make it 6-1.

Yankees 5, Rays 0

At New York, Derek Jeter had a big hit and made a big play in the field to back Andy Pettitte in New York's win over Tampa Bays.

Jeter had an early go-ahead double off starter Scott Kazmir, and made a stellar play in the seventh that preserved a two-run lead. Pettitte (10-6) allowed four hits without a walk in eight innings.

The Rays, with the best record in majors, lost two straight for the first time since June 10-11.

Kazmir (7-4) gave up five hits and two runs in five innings, striking out nine.

Jeter drove in two with a two-out double in the third. Melky Cabrera hit a solo homer in the eighth off Gary Glover.

Red Sox 6, Twins 5

At Boston, Manny Ramirez hit a game-tying two-run homer as part of a four-run eighth inning to rally Boston past Minnesota.

Ramirez's 17th homer came off reliever Matt Guerrier (4-4) and tied the game 5-5.

One out later, Kevin Youkilis doubled and Brandon Moss singled up the middle for the go-ahead run.

David Aardsma (3-2) got the final two outs in the eighth for the win. Jonathan Papelbon escaped trouble in the ninth for his 27th save.

Ramirez drove home Boston's only run in a 1-0 victory on an RBI single Monday night against Minnesota.

Tigers 9, Indians 2

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera hit two homers, Marcus Thames had one and Justin Verlander was dominant after a shaky start to lift Detroit over Cleveland.

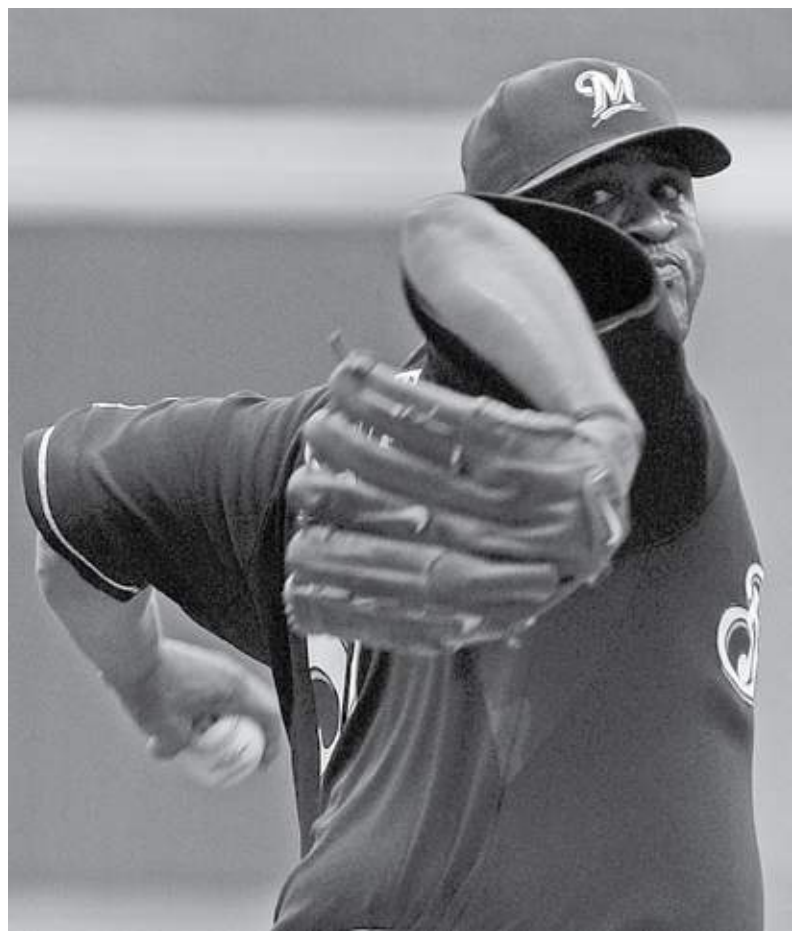
The Tigers (45-44) lead the majors with 21 wins since June 7.

Jeremy Sowers (0-5) took recently traded CC Sabathia's turn in the rotation and gave up seven runs and 10 hits over 5 2-3 innings.

Cabrera capped the four-run third with a two-run homer, one pitch after Thames' RBI double.

Thames hit his 17th homer, a two-run shot that put Detroit ahead 6-2 in the fifth.

Cabrera hit his second homer in the seventh and Ivan Rodriguez added a solo shot in the inning to give Detroit a 9-2 lead.



AP

Milwaukee Brewers starting pitcher CC Sabathia throws during the first inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies, Tuesday, July 8, 2008, in Milwaukee.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 6

At Toronto, Alex Rios scored the winning run when shortstop Freddie Bynum misplayed a grounder in the bottom of the ninth as Toronto edged Baltimore.

Rios drew a one-out walk off Jim Johnson (2-3), then stole second and went to third on a throwing error by catcher Ramon Hernandez as Vernon Wells struck out. Matt Stairs was intentionally walked to bring up Scott Rolen, who lined a grounder off Bynum's glove and into left field, scoring Rios.

Bynum entered the game as a defensive replacement in the bottom of the ninth after Jay Payton pinch-hit for Brandon Fahey in the top of the inning.

Blue Jays starter Dustin McGowan left after four innings with a sore right shoulder and will have an MRI on Wednesday. He allowed four runs, two earned, and four hits.

Rangers 3, Angels 2

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton's major league-leading 87th RBI helped Texas lefthander Matt Harrison win in his major league debut against the Angels.

After Ian Kinsler doubled in the sixth to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 20 games, Hamilton put the Rangers ahead with an RBI single.

Texas closer C.J. Wilson loaded the bases with two outs in the ninth before getting Juan Rivera to ground out for his 22nd save.

Chris Davis homered for the fourth time in four starts at home to tie the score at 2 in the fifth.

Harrison had a 1-0 lead when he ran into trouble in the fifth. Garret Anderson's two-run single followed a walk to Torii Hunter and a double by Howie Kendrick.

White Sox 8, Royals 7, 13 innings

At Kansas City, Missouri, Orlando Cabrera's RBI double in the 13th inning gave Chicago the lead and it held on for the victory over Kansas City.

Nick Masset (1-0) coaxed a game-ending double play from Mark Grudzielanek with the bases loaded in the bottom of the 13th.

With one out in the 13th, Alexei Ramirez reached on an infield single, his career-high fourth hit, and scored on Cabrera's double to right-center off Robinson Tejada (0-1), the sixth Royals pitcher.

Masset went two innings and was the sixth pitcher the White Sox used in the 4-hour, 20-minute game.

The Royals tied it 7-7 in the bottom of the 11th after the White Sox had taken a two-run lead in the top of the inning on A.J. Pierzynski's two-run sacrifice fly to deep center.

Athletics 2, Mariners 0

At Oakland, California, Justin Duchscherer faced only three batters over the minimum and threw a two-hitter for his first career complete game to lead Oakland over Seattle.

He allowed a two-out double to Richie Sexson in the fifth and a leadoff single to Miguel Cairo in the sixth. Sexson reached base on a two-base throwing error by Oakland catcher Kurt Suzuki in the third.

Duchscherer (10-5) retired the side in order six times including the ninth inning.

Duchscherer struck out four and walked none, improving to 7-2 with a 1.34 ERA over his last nine starts.

Cubs acquire pitcher Rich Harden from Athletics

CHICAGO (AP)—One day after the Milwaukee Brewers landed an ace, the Chicago Cubs answered. Intent on ending their 100-year drought without a World Series title, the NL Central leaders acquired talented right-hander Rich Harden in a six-player deal with the Oakland Athletics on Tuesday.

With CC Sabathia going to Milwaukee, Harden was the best available pitcher, Cubs general manager Jim Hendry said.

"We felt that the two high end guys who would possibly be available were the two that have already been traded. Those are legit one and two starters. So we tried to focus on trying to acquire one," Hendry said.

"It certainly wasn't a reaction move. We would have gladly had Rich two or three weeks ago."

The Cubs began play Tuesday 3 1/2 games ahead of the Cardinals and four in front of the Brewers in the NL Central.

The Cubs can now match Milwaukee's one-two combination of Sabathia and Ben Sheets with All-Star Carlos Zambrano and Harden.

Athletics general manager Billy Beane said trading Harden doesn't mean his team is in selling mode. Oakland began the day six games behind the first-place Los Angeles Angels in the AL West and 3 1/2 behind the Boston Red Sox in the wild-card race.

"I don't necessarily think we've taken a step back. I think we've taken a step forward for the next three to five years," Beane said. "We were balancing that the club's playing well but also keeping in mind that we've had numerous injuries over the last week. "

Hendry also talked with the Indians about Sabathia and said conversations with Beane about Harden have been ongoing for three or four weeks.

"I knew Rich was going to make his start Sunday, no matter what. At the same time, my chats with (Indians GM) Mark Shapiro, I think if he liked the deal he got he was going to try to do it before CC's turn. It had nothing to do with the timing," Hendry added.

"I heard it was going to happen. Still it's always a surprise," Harden said. "It's a bit of a shock but it will be good. They've got a good team and a chance of doing something special. "

Chicago also got right-hander Chad Gaudin, who pitched previously for Cubs manager Lou Piniella in Tampa Bay, and sent promising right-hander Sean Gallagher, outfielders Matt Murton and Eric Patterson and minor leaguer Josh Donaldson to the A's.

Harden, eligible to be a free agent after the 2009 season, is 5-1 with a 2.34 ERA in 13 starts this season. He's scheduled to make $4.75 million this season.

"We will have the rights for a year and a half, so that's the other advantage of him not being a free agent," Hendry said. "He has an option that could vest, or we could pick up the option or we could arbitrate. So he certainly has a chance to be a Cub through the end of next year."

The oft-injured Harden missed a month earlier this season because of a right shoulder strain. It was his sixth trip to the disabled list in his six-year career.

"Obviously there's some risk involved. He's missed some time but he's never had any surgery," Hendry said. "We did extensive work with their doctors."

The Cubs said they expected Harden to join the team Wednesday and pitch either Friday or Saturday at Wrigley Field against the San Francisco Giants.

"This gives us another weapon," Piniella said. "He'll fit in here really nice. Let's keep him healthy and pitching and go from there."

The Cubs won the NL Central last season but were swept out of the playoffs by Arizona. Without a World Series appearance since 1945 and without a title since 1908, they are obviously making a strong push. The team is also expected to be sold by the end of the season.

"We never looked at it as 'Oh, we're going to get in, we're better than last year, we'll take our chances if we get in,'" Hendry said. "There's a lot of baseball left. We don't look at it today like we're getting in for sure. ... Our mode all year has been that we will try to get better."

Schumacher wins Tour de France time trial

CHOLET, France—German rider Stefan Schumacher had the biggest day of his career Tuesday, taking the first individual time trial of the Tour de France and the overall leader's yellow jersey.

Schumacher completed the 29.5 kilometers (18.3 miles) in 35 minutes, 44 seconds, ahead of Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg and David Millar of Britain, who were both 18 seconds back.

The time trial began and ended in Cholet.

Schumacher took the yellow jersey from France's Romain Feillu, who won it on Monday following a daylong breakaway.

Time-trial world champion Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland, who was the favorite for the stage, struggled from the beginning and finished fifth.

"My head is down, but you have to keep your head up when you see things you can do better for the next time trial," Cancellara said.

"It wasn't my day today, I think. I couldn't find the rhythm and the sensations I normally have."

In the overall classification, Schumacher is 12 seconds ahead of both Millar and Kirchen.

Schumacher will likely hold the yellow jersey at least for another day as Wednesday's stage favors the sprinters and the pack is expected to stay together. The 232-kilometer (144.2-mile) stage from Cholet to Chateauroux is the longest and flattest stage of the race.

"I didn't come to win the Tour. My goal was to wear the jersey one day and to win a stage. I reached this goal, so everything else is a bonus," Schumacher said.



AP

Stefan Schumacher of Germany strains on his way to win the fourth stage of the Tour de France cycling race, an individual time trial over 29.5 kilometers (18.3 miles) with start and finish in Cholet, western France, Tuesday July 8, 2008.

Millar was happy with his third place.

"I felt good, everything went perfect," Millar said. "I was at 100 percent."

But the big winner of Tuesday appeared to be Cadel Evans, who saw all his main rivals for the overall title lose time to him.

The Australian finished fourth, while Alejandro Valverde of Spain was 23rd, more than a minute back, with his compatriot Carlos Sastre a further five places and nine seconds behind.

Feillu, who finished nearly five minutes behind Schumacher, acknowledged that he had not been strong enough to hold on to the yellow jersey.

"I gave a lot yesterday, and I was very nervous today. I didn't have the strength," he said.

Schumacher is a controversial rider in this year's Tour. In January, German police announced that they had detected amphetamines in his blood when he was stopped for drunken driving on October 7, six days after he won a bronze medal at the road race world championships.

He was not sanctioned by cycling authorities because the use of amphetamines outside of competition times is not considered to be a doping offense. Schumacher denied that he had ever taken drugs.

"For sure it wasn't easy," Schumacher said Tuesday. "I was really not proud that I went into the car drunk. I am a public personality and I also have to be an example for other guys. It wasn't good for me, but I didn't take drugs."

Schumacher said he did not consider his case to be the same as that of Belgian Tom Boonen, who was banished from the Tour after testing positive for cocaine in an out-of-competition control in May.

"Mine was a police control, it was microscopic," Schumacher said. "I didn't consume (the drugs)."

Schumacher added, however, that he felt sorry for Boonen because he did not appear to have broken international anti-doping rules.

TENNIS BRIEFS

No. 2 Nadal closes in on Federer in ATP rankings

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Rafael Nadal's epic victory over Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final allowed him to significantly narrow the gap at the top of the ATP rankings. Federer remains at No. 1 for a record 232nd consecutive week, and Nadal stays at No. 2 for a record 155th week in a row. But Federer's lead fell from 1,145 points - 6,900 to 5,755—entering the grass-court Grand Slam tournament to 545 points - 6,600 to 6,055—in Monday's new rankings. Nadal beat Federer 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5), 6-7 (8), 9-7 on Sunday night in a rain-interrupted match with 4 hours, 48 minutes of action - the longest men's championship match in the history of Wimbledon, a tournament that began in 1877. Novak Djokovic held on to his No. 3 ranking, despite being upset in the second round. David Ferrer moved up from No. 5 to No. 4, swapping places with Nikolay Davydenko, who lost in the first round. Andy Roddick, David Nalbandian and James Blake stayed in Nos. 6-8, while Andy Murray moved back into the top 10, rising two spots to No. 9, by reaching his first Wimbledon quarterfinal. Stanislas Wawrinka is 10th. In the WTA rankings, Wimbledon champion Venus Williams stayed at No. 7 after successfully defending her title. Her younger sister, Serena, who lost to Venus in the final, rose one spot to No. 5. French Open champion Ana Ivanovic kept her No. 1 ranking, even though she lost in the third round at the All England Club, but Maria Sharapova slid from No. 2 to No. 3 after being knocked out in the second round. Jelena Jankovic moved to No. 2, and Svetlana Kuznetsova stayed at No. 4. Elena Dementieva dropped a spot to No. 6, followed by Venus Williams, Anna Chakvetadze, French Open runner-up Dinara Safina and Agnieszka Radwanska, who moved into the top 10 for the first time.

US Open ups total prize money, champions' pay

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—Total prize money at the U.S. Open will top $20 million for the first time this year, with the men's and women's singles champions each earning a tournament-record $1.5 million. The overall payout of $20.6 million is $1 million more than in 2007, matching the largest single-year jump in the hard-court Grand Slam tournament's history, the U.S. Tennis Association announced Tuesday. There also was a $1 million jump in total prize money from 2006 to 2007, when the singles champions' take rose from $1.2 million to $1.4 million. Adding in the bonuses available to the leading finishers in the summer circuit U.S. Open Series, the overall prize money could eventually be more than $23 million. The No. 1 performers in the U.S. Open Series will earn a total of $2.5 million if they win the Grand Slam tournament, which begins Aug. 25. Last year, Roger Federer won both the summer series and the U.S. Open title, giving him a total payout of $2.4 million—the largest paycheck in tennis history.

Howell, Love among first in PGA to have drug tests

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—In the 237 times Charles Howell III has teed it up on the PGA Tour, he never had a round end like Thursday at the AT&T National. After signing for an even-par 70, he was handed a pink slip. Howell was among the first players chosen for testing under the tour's Anti-Doping Program that went into effect this week.

He left the scoring area at about 5:45 p.m., and came back out to the putting green 40 minutes later. He was given a pink piece of paper showing that his sample was valid.

"I hope Gatorade Tiger passes the test," Howell said. "Because I put two bottles in me."

Allison Keller, a program administrator for the PGA Tour, had said earlier this week that the process was expected to take between seven and 10 minutes. PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem was the first to be tested on Wednesday, and he said it took 9 1/2 minutes.

Howell said once he was sufficiently hydrated—he had just spent nearly five hours at Congressional in temperatures in the low 90s—it took about eight minutes.

Davis Love III also was tested, and Howell said Love had to go back downstairs to his locker to get his identification. The tour does not disclose who gets tested, although Howell figured he was not the first.

"They have a sink to wash your hands, and there were a half-dozen towels piled up in the corner," he said.

The National Center for Drug Free Sport, which administers the anti-doping program, is to notify the tour's administrator when the results have been analyzed.

Howell said earlier in the week he was tested every year when he played at Oklahoma State and doesn't expect any surprises in golf.

"I don't think any player is on the PGA Tour is taking something they shouldn't be taking," he said. "The only thing that concerns me is the accidental thing. I don't think we have guys trying to get ahead of the system."



AP

Charles Howell III, of Orlando, Fla., hits his tee shot on the seventh hole during the final round at the 84 Lumber Classic at Mystic Rock Golf course in Farmington, Pa., Sunday, Sept. 17, 2006.

British cyclist Millar promises more after strong time trial

CHOLET, France (AP)—British cyclist David Millar had his best Tour de France ride in five years, placing third in Tuesday's time trial. Now, he's promising even more.

The 31-year-old Millar, who previously served a two-year ban after admitting to doping, had not placed in the top-three of a Tour stage since beating seven-time champion Lance Armstrong to win a time trial in 2003.

"I had a really good day today. It was nice to feel that all the work I did paid off," Millar said. "We'll see in the days ahead. I think I'm going to be better than anyone's ever seen me before."

Millar, who rides for the Garmin Chipotle team, finished the fourth stage behind winner Stefan Schumacher of Germany and Kim Kirchen of Luxembourg, who finished in second place by a fraction.

Both riders were timed 18 seconds behind Schumacher on the 29.5-kilometer (18.3-mile) course around Cholet.

It is some turn around for Millar, who was banned for two years in 2004 and stripped of his 2003 world time-trial title after admitting to using the endurance-booster EPO.

He missed the 2004 and 2005 Tours, and came back with the Saunier Duval team in 2006—placing 58th overall, and then 69th last year.

"I was away for two years and it's taken me two years to get back," Millar said. "I feel like I'm back on top of it. I've got my confidence back again. I have the people around me to give that confidence."

Millar was referring to the team's owner, Jonathan Vaughters, a former U.S. Postal teammate of Armstrong.

"This is the most I've ever enjoyed cycling and I've helped built this team," Millar said. "It kind of reflects my personality and Jonathan's. It's fun all the time, there are not really any defining moments."

In 2003, he won a time trial on the 19th stage, and also won the 2000 prologue—beating Armstrong both times and earning a reputation as one of cycling's most talented riders.

Riding into a strong headwind, Millar felt he handled the conditions well on a technical course.

"It was a good course, there was a bit of everything," he said. "It was the wind that made it, a block headwind and a tail wind on the way back. It was not a classic time trial course, it was quite technical."

Weigh-in for Saturday fight tomorrow

By MARK RABAGO
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TRENCH TECH

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez is reminding all fighters who will be taking part in Saturday's Fan Appreciation Fight Night that the weight-in will be held at the Trench Tech Gym tomorrow from 5pm to 7pm.

Alvarez also advised military personnel who are coming to the event to bring in their IDs, in case they come in late. He said all troops are free of charge.

As its name already suggests, the first 100 mixed martial arts enthusiasts to come to Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Fight Night will be let in free of charge, the next 100 fans will pay $1, and the next 100 fans after will pay $2, and so on.

Fan Appreciation Fight Night will be bannered by seven MMA bouts at the San Antonio Gym, opening with the 130-lb. bout between Alvarick "Pretty Boy" Alvarez and Paul Quizon.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Fight Night will be held this coming Saturday, July 12, at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

It will be followed by action in the 135-lb. weight class between Gino "Baka" Asanuma and Carl K. Takai.

Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse will then trade blows and grappling holds with Nathan "Nats" Flores in their 155-lb. encounter.

The fourth MMA match of the evening will then pit T.J. "Yin Yang" Castro against A.J. Santos in the 145-lb. category.

Tom "Lights Out" Kim will then see action in the 160-lb. weight class opposite Sal Limes.

It will be followed by the 150-lb. match between Chris "No Luv" Laayug and John Ogarto.

The final MMA fight of the Fan Appreciation Fight Night will then feature Ton "Double Hit" Sablan against Rick "2Slik" San Nicolas in the super heavyweight class of 200 more lbs.

Aside from the seven MMA fights, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez will also see time in the octagon against Angel Santos in their 130-lb. boxing bout.

"Uncle" Ton Arriola will then go up against Jason "Myst" Rios in a kickboxing match in the 140-lb. division.

Two grappling and submission matches will also be held with Nick "2Quick" Shoemake going up against a still unknown opponent in the 165-lb. weight class.

The other grappling and submission match will have Kobee Boy Mendoza taking on John Anthony Hofscneider in the 10-and-under division

And as an added treat, Trench Tech will be bringing back its extremely popular Battle of the Fans where two lucky fans will get drawn and do battle in the octagon cage with extremely oversized boxing gloves for a chance to win prizes.

Doors open for Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Fight Night at exactly 5pm.

Cuki Alvarez and Trench Tech have also lined up two more events before the close of the year.

Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 5: Rise of the Warriors is scheduled for Sept. 27, while Trench Warz 9 is slated for Dec. 6.

Alvarez said like previous Rites of Passage events, Rise of the Warriors will again serve as proving grounds for young talent looking to make it to the big show.

"This event caters to the first- or second-time fighter or fighters who have lost and are looking to redeem their performance and try to earn their 'rites to pass'...onto bigger more prestigious events."

Tickets will be sold at $20 for all seating and it will be first-come, first-serve as far as seating arrangements are concerned.

Alvarez, meanwhile, said details of Trench Warz 9—Trench Tech's final event of 2008—will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

NIKKI

From Page 28

"He had not showed this attitude in the past. This was the first time. But the Filipino umpire made the right call. You cannot argue with that. It's a judgment call. His third base coach, Ike Taitano, should be on top of that because he was there. It's his job to clam down his players, you can quote me on that. I'm not blaming Nikki. The base coach was there. He should've prevented [it from happening]," he said.

CNMI Little League District Administrator James Ada, for his part, said as far as he knows San Nicolas will be traveling with the rest of the 2008 Asia-Pacific Big League champions to the mainland for the World Series set from July 26 to Aug. 2.

He said San Nicolas already served his one game suspension when he was benched in the CNMI's 8-7 win against the Philippines in the Big League championship last July 3.

San Nicolas' manager in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League, Joey Dela Cruz of league-leading Rock Steady, meanwhile, said that although he likes his ward and is a good friend of his, the pitching ace should be thought a lesson and should not be allowed to join the Big League team to Easley.

He added that it would be a bad precedence for all-stars who show unsportsmanlike conduct in future tournaments.

The *Saipan Tribune* left several messages to CNMI Big League All-Star manager Robert Magofna's mobile phone, but he has yet to return the calls.

Being thrown out in the second game of the Regionals and sitting out the finale was not exactly how San Nicolas envisioned his stint in the tournament.

Especially not after leading the CNMI against Guam, 5-2, on opening day last June 28 at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

San Nicolas was selected to the Big League team after recording 50 strike outs in the regular. He also did damage from the plate, batting a .368 against opposing pitchers.

VAN

From Page 28

Camacho, Autonomous swingman Ed Diaz, Northern Marianas College playmaker Jose Tumaquip, and DCCA lead guard Elias Rangamar complete the Top 10 in scoring for the 2008 season of the government-business league.

Camacho has scored 86 points in four games to average 21.5. Diaz has totaled 61 in three to norm 20.3, while Tumaquip and Rangamar have recorded 81 and 97 markers to average 20.25 and 19.4 points, respectively.

Tinian's J.R. Reyes (77 points in four games, 19.25 average), Department of Corrections' Luis Iguel (93 in five, 18.6) and Jeff Quitugua (92 in five, 18.4), and Bank of Guam teammates James Villacrusis (108 in six, 18) and Randy Pelisamen (116 in seven, 16.6) round out the Top 15 in the scoring race for the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.

Sponsor Pacific Telecommunications, Inc. didn't have any player land in the Top 15 as the team has only played two games so far in the competition due to scheduling snafus. The scoring is based on players who have seen action in three games or more, according to league coordinator Joey Dela Cruz.

As far as team standings go, PTI is on top with a 2-0 win-loss card followed by BoG Express at 6-1, NMC at 3-1, and DCCA at 4-2.

Autonomous, which is made up of players from last year's champion team Office of Public Auditor, is at 2-1, DOC is at 3-2, while Tinian is at .500 with a 3-3 slate. Legislature (2-5), Aguaguat (1-3), Department of Public Works/Procurement & Supply (1-4), Commonwealth Ports Authority (0-2), and Department of Public Safety make up the rest of the standings.

CNMI

From Page 28

made it 2-0 at the five-minute mark of the first half when his attempt got past CNMI goalkeeper Caleb Arriola.

Chinese-Taipei continued to put on a clinic with their strong defense and excellent passing as they went up 4-0 after the end of the 20-minute first half.

Down but not entirely out, the CNMI came out of their dugout after intermission with a purpose.

According to the *PDN*, for the first 15 minutes the CNMI prevented Chinese-Taipei from adding any more goals.

Their opponents actually took eight shots on goal, but Arriola's strong goalkeeping prevented anything from crossing the line.

Chinese-Taipei finally breached the CNMI's defenses when they scored goal No. 5 in the 35-minute mark of the competition. Chao-An Chen and Yen-Ling Tseng then each scored to give their team a commanding 6-0 lead in the 36th and 38th minute of the contest.

The *PDN* noted that the CNMI had a good chance at putting a goal through, but was snuffed by the Chinese-Taipei's air-tight defense. Chinese-Taipei added one more goal during extra time to give them the 7-0 victory.

Other results Tuesday saw Guam shut out Mongolia, 3-0. North Korea tie Hong Kong, 0-0; and South Korea defeat China, 1-0.

Making up the CNMI team are Devin Atalig, Hunter Thorpe, Caleb Ariola, Jaythan Camacho, Crosby Shultz, Bo Barry, Stacy Escueta, Jake Lee, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Josiah Orlando, Angelo Jones, Andrew Johnson, Keoni Borja, Mickey Coleman, Misaki Cramer, Masami Hirai, Hunter Jewell, and Jehn Joyner

R.J. Knecht and Christian Miller are also part of the squad but are not able to compete because of injury and other commitments.

A total of 10 teams are taking part in the EAFF U-14 Youth Festival 2008 Guam. The matches consist of two 20-minute halves, with the better third-place team joining the top two teams from each group in Playoff Group E. The lesser third-place team will be joined by the bottom two teams from each group in Playoff Group F.

The EAFF U-14 Youth Festival was last held at the China National Football Training Center in Beijing in 2006, where the CNMI made its international debut.

IGUEL

From Page 28

the sprint in an identical time of 13.8—both personal bests.

Fiji's Isoa Me ran the men's 400m and finished in 49.4, while Andrew Peska and Andrew Welch, both of Australia, participated in the discus and threw distances of 52.29m and 52.88m, respectively.

New Zealand's Sarah McSweeney also competed in the 3000m steeplechase and negotiated the course in 10.44.07.

Other members of the Oceania team to the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships are Palau's Douglas Schmidt, Guam's Kenneth Karosich, and Tonga's Paseka Fangupo.

The Oceania team to the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships will have Janelle Eldridge of Australia serving as manager and two federations have sent accompanying coaches—Jone Delai of Fiji and Jay Antonio of Guam.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	55	34	.618	_
Boston	54	39	.581	3
New York	48	42	.533	7 1/2
Baltimore	44	44	.500	10 1/2
Toronto	43	47	.478	12 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	52	37	.584	_
Minnesota	50	40	.556	2 1/2
Detroit	45	44	.506	7
Kansas City	40	51	.440	13
Cleveland	37	52	.416	15

West Division

Los Angeles	54	36	.600	_
Oakland	49	41	.544	5
Texas	47	44	.516	7 1/2
Seattle	35	55	.389	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	48	43	.527	_
Florida	46	44	.511	1 1/2
New York	46	44	.511	1 1/2
Atlanta	43	48	.473	5
Washington	34	57	.374	14

Central Division

Chicago	54	36	.600	_
St. Louis	51	40	.560	3 1/2
Milwaukee	50	40	.556	4
Cincinnati	43	48	.473	11 1/2
Pittsburgh	42	47	.472	11 1/2
Houston	41	50	.451	13 1/2

West Division

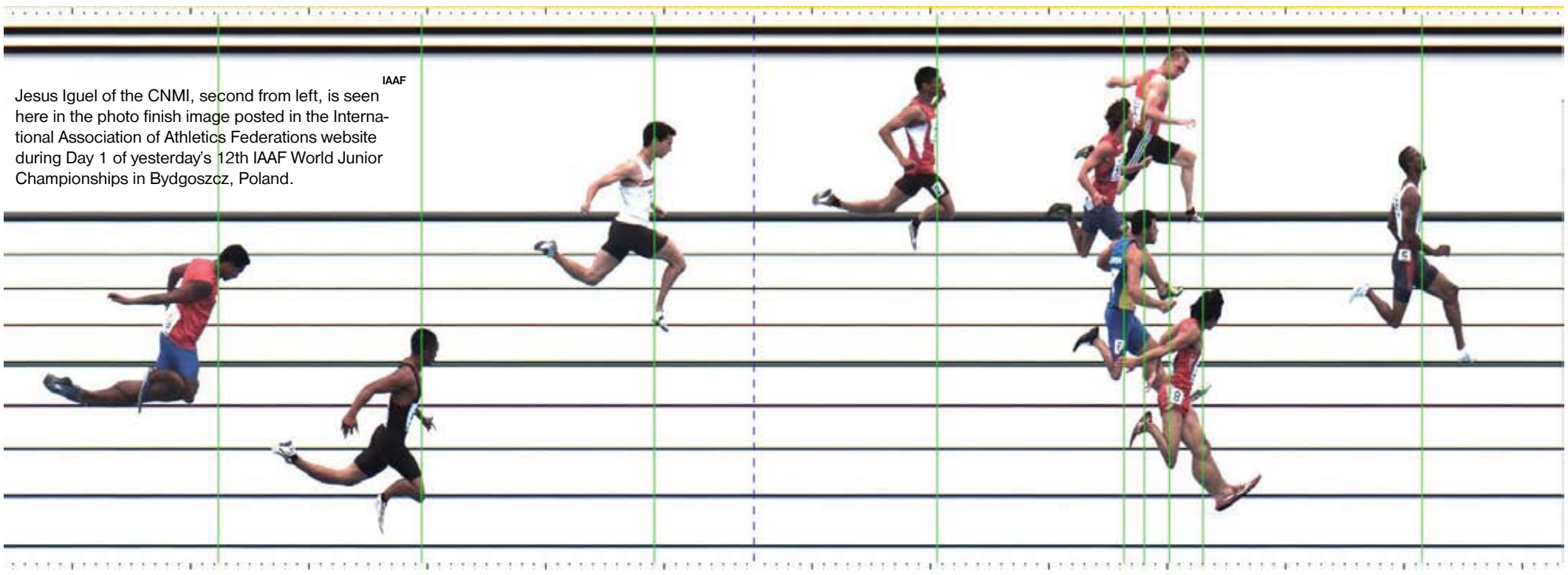
Arizona	45	45	.500	_
Los Angeles	44	46	.489	1
San Francisco	39	51	.433	6
Colorado	38	53	.418	7 1/2
San Diego	36	55	.396	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 4, Houston 3
St. Louis 2, Philadelphia 0
N.Y. Mets 7, San Francisco 0
Arizona 2, Washington 0
Milwaukee 7, Colorado 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Cincinnati 3
San Diego 10, Florida 1
Atlanta 9, L.A. Dodgers 3
Boston 6, Minnesota 5
N.Y. Yankees 5, Tampa Bay 0
Detroit 9, Cleveland 2
Toronto 7, Baltimore 6
Texas 3, L.A. Angels 2
Chicago White Sox 8, Kansas City 7, 13 innings
Oakland 2, Seattle 0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iguel runs personal best in Poland



IAAF

Jesus Iguel of the CNMI, second from left, is seen here in the photo finish image posted in the International Association of Athletics Federations website during Day 1 of yesterday's 12th IAAF World Junior Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

By MARK RABAGO
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Jesus Iguel of the CNMI ran a personal best when he competed in the 100m event of the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships which kicked off yesterday in Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Running in the first heat at Lane 9, the 19-year-old Kagman High School student ran the men's century dash in 11.71 to break the 11.82 he registered during the recent 2008 Oceania Grand Prix held here on Saipan.

He had a reaction time of 0.194 in the World Junior Championships

Iguel previously ran the 100m in 11.5 during the McDonald's All-Schools Meet last month, but that was using a hand timer.

Sixteen other athletes from the Oceania region, including those from New Zealand and Australia, also saw action in Day 1 of the 12th IAAF World Junior Championships.

Of the 16, three athletes managed to qualify for the finals—David Ambler of New Zealand, Kurt Mulcahy, and Melissa Breen, both of Australia.

Ambler advanced to the semis of the 100m after running it in 10.58. Mulcahy, for his part, finished the 400m with a time of 47.35. Breen crossed the finish line of the women's century dash in 11.66.

Other Oceania athletes who ran the men's 100m were Kiribati's Tim Natua (11.88), Cook Islands' Gordon Heather (11.57), French Polynesia's Thomas Slowinski (11.42), Vanuatu's Emile Nisap (11.64), Solomon Islands' Alfred Adison (11.19), Norfolk Island's Dayne O'Hara (12.03), and American Samoa's Jeffrey Tago (13.18).

Dana Thoma of Nauru and Shirley Vunatup of Papua New Guinea also took part in the 100m heats for women and ran

See IGUEL on Page 27

Nikki going to Easley after all

By MARK RABAGO
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Asia-Pacific Big League champions ace pitcher Nicolas "Nikki" San Nicolas will join his teammates to the World Series in Easley, South Carolina, after all.

This after the flame-throwing hurler wrote an apology to the umpire he argued with during the CNMI's no-bearing game against the Philippines Big League All-Stars last July 1 during the 2008 Asia-Pacific Regional Little League Tournament.

It can be recalled that San Nicolas was thrown out of that game and had to be restrained by his teammates and third base coach Ike Taitano after the umpire called him out at third base.

Tournament director and Saipan Little League Baseball Association vice president Mike Borja said San Nicolas was allowed to play in the Big League World Series after the teenager showed some remorse.

He, however, said that the pitcher would be on a short leash and any future transgressions in the World Series on in the run-up to the event would lead to his automatic expulsion from the team.

Borja, in an earlier interview, said that San Nicolas' outburst during the Regionals was a source of concern for the SLLBA board.

He said his manager and coaches should have been monitoring the situation, adding that they could've probably prevented the altercation between San Nicolas and the game official.

See NIKKI on Page 27



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Big League All-Star Nicolas "Nikki" San Nicolas, seen here in a file photo, will join his teammates when the recently crowned Asia-Pacific champions travel to the World Series in Easley, South Carolina.

Van Buren paces govt scoring

By MARK RABAGO
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Department of Community and Cultural Affairs center/forward Taj Van Buren is currently leading the scoring race in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League.

The 6'4" former Pacific Islands Club clubmate has so far burned the nets for 122 total points in four games to average 30.5 an outing for DCCA.

Ponce Rasa of Autonomous is close behind Van Buren as the 5'9" guard/forward is currently averaging 29 points per game after firing 87 points in three ballgames.

Tinian's bull-strong small forward Anthony Borja and DCCA's towering center Abong Camacho are tied in third place in the scoring race after both averaged 27 points in six games. The 5'10" Borja and the 6'3" Camacho have so far punctured the nets for 162 points.

Aguaguat's Ryan Sablan and Tinian's John Santos complete the Top 5 in scoring with averages of 25.3 and 25 points per game, respectively. Sablan has totaled 76 points in three games so far, while Santos has piled up 120 in five games.

DCCA power forward Peter

See VAN on Page 27



MARK RABAGO

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs center/forward Taj Van Buren, seen here in a file photo, has so far burned the nets for 122 total points in four games to average 30.5 an outing.

CNMI blanked by Chinese-Taipei

By MARK RABAGO
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The gallant CNMI team currently seeing action in the 2008 East Asian Football Federation Under-14 Youth Football Festival in Guam succumbed to its fourth straight loss when they bowed to Chinese-Taipei, 0-7, Tuesday at the Leo-Palace Resort.

According to reports from the *Pacific Daily News*, the team from Formosa was aggressive from the get-go as they took advantage of their experience in regional and international competitions against a relatively young and inexperienced team from the Commonwealth.

Chinese-Taipei started the ball rolling, so to speak, when I-Ping Peng found the back of the net from 10 yards out with a mere two minutes into the game.

Chun-Chang Wu then

See CNMI on Page 27